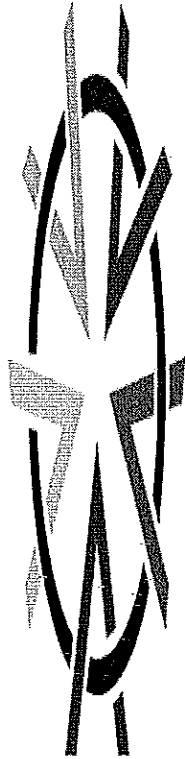


STUDENT-COMPOSED SONGS SING SUCCESS OF TEACHING ARTIST RESIDENCY

As part of a TeachArtsOhio teaching artist residency, the Midview High School songwriting class has been working with Cleveland songwriter Brent Kirby to produce "Living in the Moment," a CD featuring six songs written entirely by the students.

[READ MORE](#)

OHIO ARTISTS RECEIVE INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Board members of the Ohio Arts Council approved Individual Excellence Awards for state fiscal year 2018 during a public meeting on April 25. The awards recognize creative artists for the exceptional merit of a body of their work that advances or exemplifies the discipline and the larger artistic community.

[READ MORE](#)

Ohio Arts
COUNCIL A STATE AGENCY SUPPORTING
ARTS AND CULTURE

**WATCH: HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS DISCUSS WORK
FEATURED IN OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EXHIBITION**



WATCH THE VIDEO



KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL HONORS TUSKEGEE AIRMAN THROUGH ARTWORK

This summer, a monument commemorating Lt. John H. Leahr, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen from Kennedy Heights, Ohio, will be unveiled outside of the Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

[READ MORE](#)



MEET KATHY SIGNORINO, ARTIST PROGRAMS/PERCENT FOR ART COORDINATOR

A lover of spreadsheets, fine arts, and cats, you can find Kathy Signorino at her desk in the Ohio Arts Council's Individual Artist office or traveling around the state for the Ohio Percent for Art program. Learn more about Kathy in this month's Meet the Staff Q&A.

[READ MORE](#)




Art & Accessibility Tip #9: What to know when writing about disability


When writing about people with disabilities, do you ever wonder if you're saying the "right thing"? The [National Center on Disability and Journalism](#) has a [Disability Language Style Guide](#) to assist you in writing. And remember: When in doubt, put the person first.

For more accessibility ideas from local, regional, or national websites, contact Kim Turner, the accessibility coordinator at the Ohio Arts Council, at kim.turner@oac.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Arts Council believes that everyone has the right of equal access to the arts. Each month, the ArtsOhio newsletter includes an accessibility tip for arts organizations. For additional accessibility resources, visit oac.ohio.gov/About/About-the-Council/Accessibility.

ON VIEW



 **Riffe Gallery**
OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

A collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the
National Museum of Women in the Arts

MAY 3 - JULY 7, 2018

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WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

May 3 - July 7, 2018

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COMING SOON

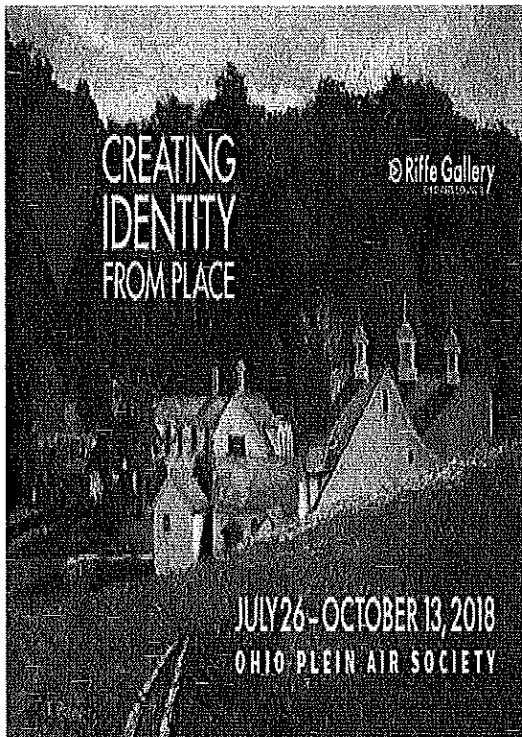
**LOBBY EXHIBITION:
ACCESSIBLE
EXPRESSIONS OHIO, VSA
OHIO**

June 13 - July 11, 2018

Started in 1996, *Accessible Expressions Ohio* is an adjudicated, statewide exhibition and tour of visual art for artists of all ages with disabilities. This professional development opportunity helps raise awareness about art and disability by presenting the art in inclusive settings.

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CREATING IDENTITY FROM PLACE

July 26 - October 13, 2018

Creating Identity from Place: Ohio Plein Air Society is an exhibition of 73 paintings and drawings created from direct observation in nature. Curated by Artistic Director Charlotte Gordon, Southern Ohio Museum, this exhibition of Midwestern landscapes is a reflection on the everyday beauty of Ohio.

[READ MORE](#)

FOR ORGANIZATIONS | Grants & Opportunities

JUNE 1: Capacity Building, Building Cultural Diversity, and Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) Grant Applications Due

The [Capacity Building program](#) supports organizations' efforts to improve business practices or add new knowledge and skills that forward organizations' missions. Awards may fund technical assistance projects, planning or evaluation work, staff professional development opportunities, or other initiatives that upgrade an organization's ability to do what they do.

[READ MORE](#)

The Building Cultural Diversity program supports new and emerging organizations whose mission, programs, staff, and board represent culturally diverse communities. Awards support arts programming and projects that celebrate communities' unique arts and culture or preserve a culturally significant artistic tradition or practice.

[READ MORE](#)

ADAP provides funding that gives individual artists with disabilities—and organizations that serve them—the resources they need to further their artistic development. ADAP awards help artists with disabilities advance their artistic practices, making Ohio a more accessible and inclusive place to build an artistic career.

[READ MORE](#)

CONTACT: [Brianna Dance](#) and [Jim Szekacs](#), Organizational Programs Coordinators

FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS | *Poetry Out Loud*



Poetry Out Loud Registration is Now Open

Ohio *Poetry Out Loud* registration is open for the 2018-19 competition! *Poetry Out Loud* encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation.

REGISTER TODAY

CONTACT: Chiquita Mullins Lee, Arts Learning Coordinator

Image credits: 1) 2018 Governor's Award for Community Development and Participation winner Sierra Leone and Ohio Arts Council Executive Director Donna S. Collins, photo by Terry Gilliam; 2) 2018 Governor's Awards winners, (left) Crystal Michelle, Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders, Amy Held, Ricardo Averbach, Sierra Leone, Scott McComb, Marsha Dobrzynski, Howard Parr, Mimi Rose, Stuart Rose, David Mitzel, photos by Terry Gilliam; 3) National Endowment for the Arts logo; 4) "Living in the Moment" album cover, photo courtesy of Justin Caltham, Midview Local Schools; 5) Ohio Arts Council logo; 6) Ohio House of Representatives Student Art Exhibition video screenshot; 7) Lt. John Lehr memorial concept sketch, photo courtesy of Jarrett Hawkins; 8) Meet the Staff graphic; 9) Art and Accessibility graphic; 10) Women to Watch Ohio - 2018 post card, image credit: Carol Boram-Hays, WHOOSH (detail), 2017, steel, duct tape, 114" x 80" x 48"; 11) Kerri Applin, Grandpa's Flapjacks, air dry clay, acrylic paint; 12) Robin Roberts, An Evening at Malabar Farm, 2016, Oil on canvas, 15 1/2" x 19 1/2"; 13) Ohio Poetry Out Loud logo



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From: Ohio Arts Council

Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2018 10:04 AM

To: Slack, Cora

Subject: June | Free Admission to Blue Star Museums, NEA Grant Recipients & more

Keep up to date on Ohio Arts Council news, grant deadlines, and more.

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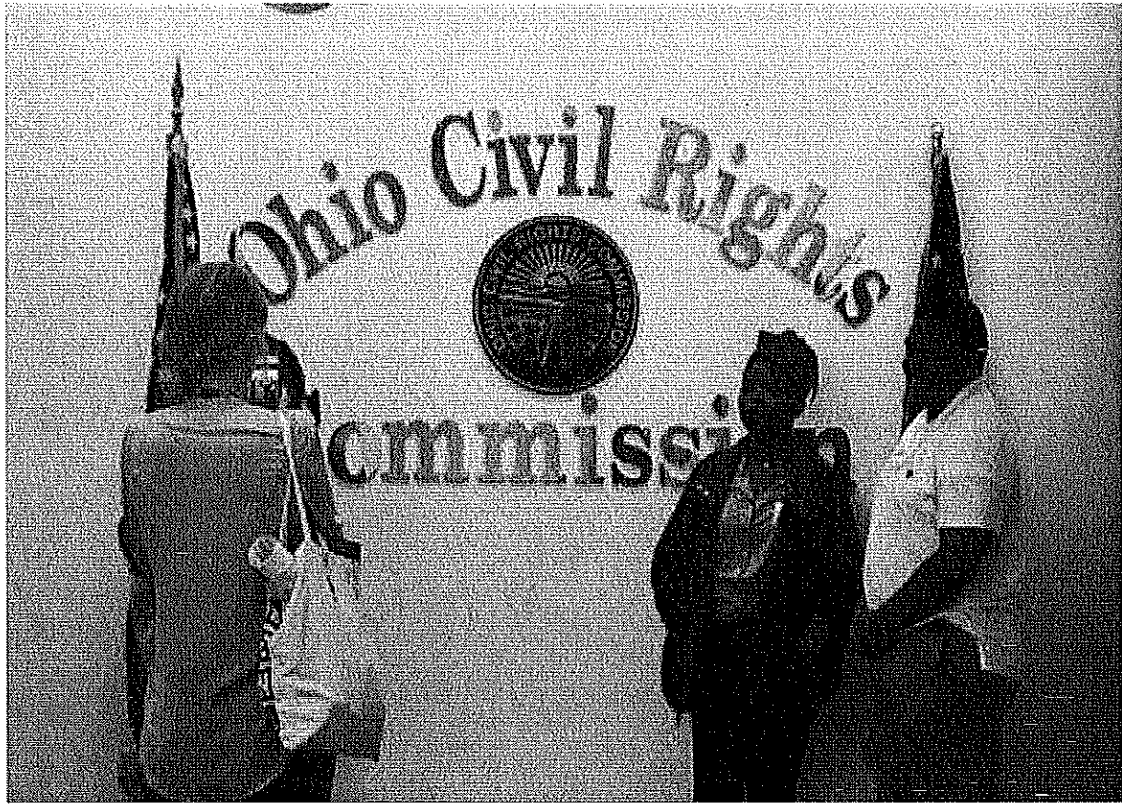
GET READY FOR THE OHIO STATE FAIR!



In this month's Message from the Executive Director, Donna S. Collins reflects on memories from the Ohio State Fair and celebrates the Ohio Arts Council's 20th year of involvement in the annual event.

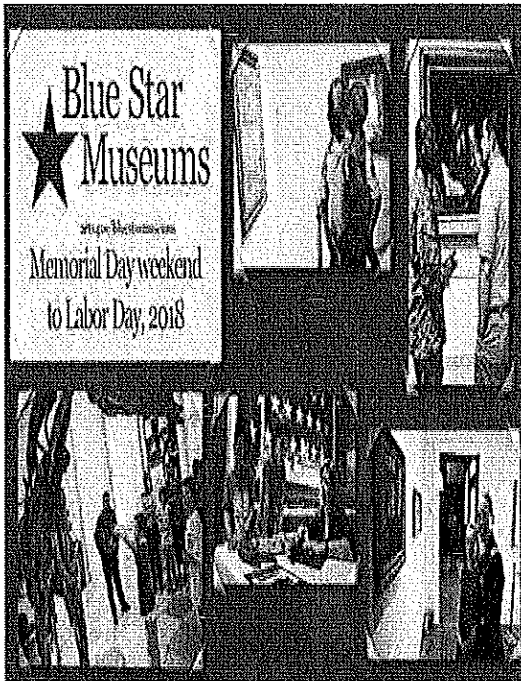
READ DONNA'S MESSAGE

**STUDENTS EXPLORE SELF-EXPRESSION IN OHIO
CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION YOUTH ART EXHIBITION**



Project Snapshot and Envision Project participants learned how to process film and take photos in preparation to display their photography at the Ohio Civil Rights Commission Youth Art Exhibition.

[READ MORE](#)



51 OHIO MUSEUMS OFFER FREE ADMISSION TO MILITARY THIS SUMMER

More than 2,000 museums nationwide are set to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

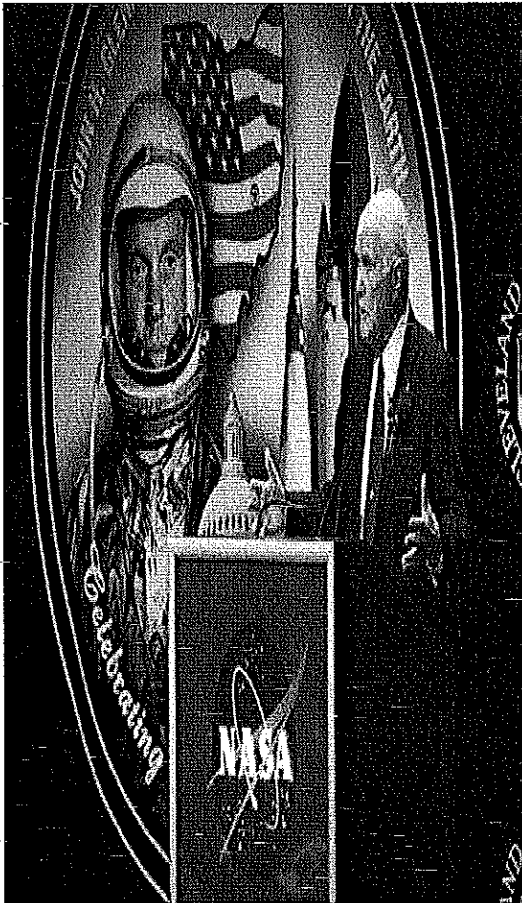
[READ MORE](#)



TWO OHIO COMPANIES RECEIVE GRANTS TO PRODUCE SHAKESPEARE PLAYS AND PROGRAMMING

Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and Cleveland's Great Lakes Theater were awarded Shakespeare in American Communities grants from Arts Midwest and the National Endowment for the Arts.

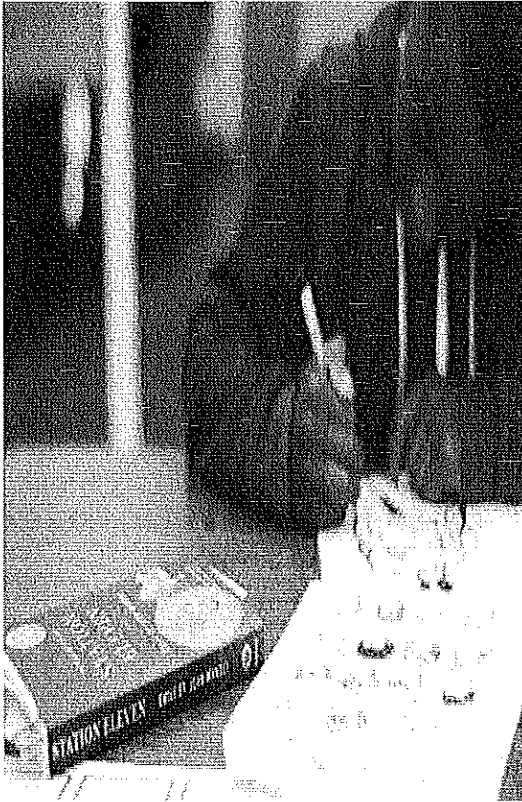
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MUSKINGUM BAND HONORS JOHN GLENN WITH SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED COMPOSITION

"I want them to listen in a way that just lets them experience that feeling of loyalty and that connection that John and Annie had. I just hope that they feel that sense of pride in this great Ohioan, this great Marine, and this great American."

[READ MORE](#)



OHIO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE NATIONAL LITERATURE GRANTS

The Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and the Massillon Museum have each been awarded a \$15,000 NEA Big Read grant to develop specific programming related to community reading efforts.

[READ MORE](#)

ON VIEW

Riffe Gallery
OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018

A collaboration with the Ohio Advisory Group of the
National Museum of Women in the Arts

MAY 3 - JULY 7, 2018

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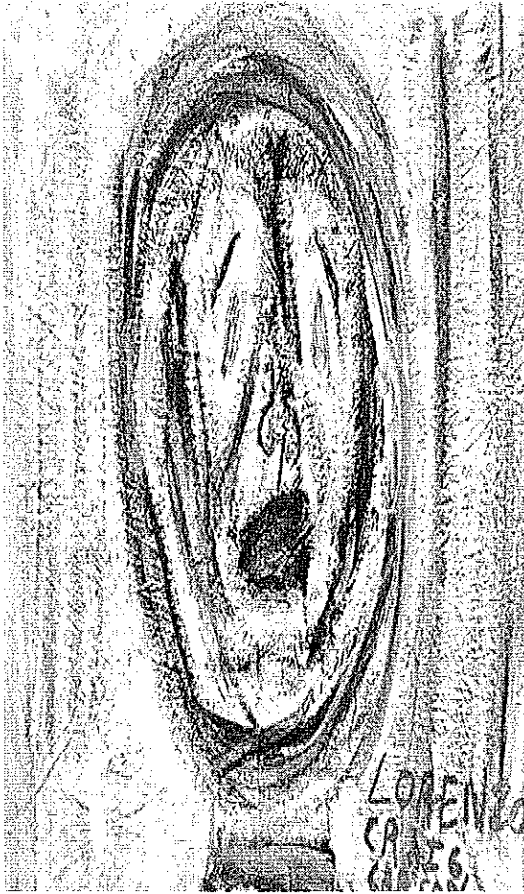


MANIPULATING METAL IN *WOMEN TO WATCH OHIO - 2018*

Women to Watch Ohio - 2018 asks viewers to consider the varied materiality, technical processes, and scale of metalwork. The exhibition presents viewers with an opportunity to pause, look, and learn from an impressive group of artists and to engage with contemporary issues filtered through the lens of an often-gendered material.

[READ MORE](#)

COMING SOON

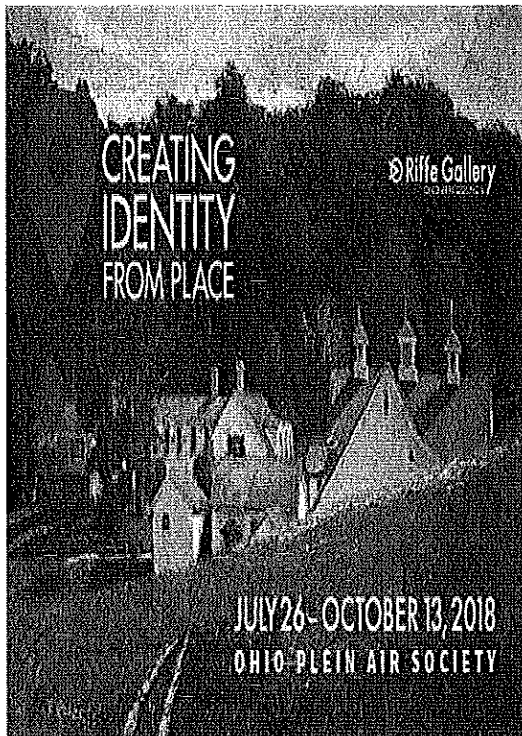


LOBBY EXHIBITION: ACCESSIBLE EXPRESSIONS OHIO, VSA OHIO

June 13 - July 11, 2018

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FOR ARTISTS | Grants & Opportunities

SEPTEMBER 1: Individual Excellence Awards Grant Applications Due

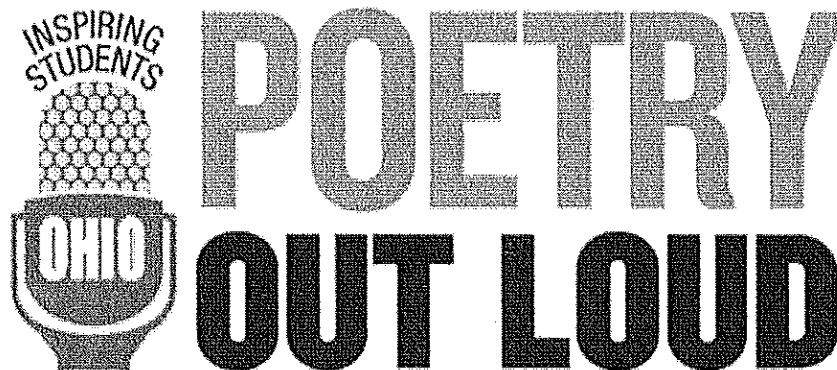
The **Individual Excellence Awards** program recognizes outstanding accomplishments by artists in a variety of disciplines. Competitive applications focused on the merit of past artistic work, combined with an open panel review conducted by nationally recognized professionals, ensure that the most exceptional individuals receive funding.

This year, applications are accepted in **crafts; design arts/illustration; interdisciplinary, collaborative & performance art; media arts; photography; visual arts 2D; and visual arts 3D.**

[READ MORE](#)

CONTACT: [Kathy Signorino](#), Artist Programs/ Percent for Art Coordinator

FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS | *Poetry Out Loud*



***Poetry Out Loud* Registration is Now Open**

Ohio *Poetry Out Loud* registration is open for the 2018-19 competition! *Poetry Out Loud* encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

CONTACT: Chiquita Mullins Lee, Arts Learning Coordinator

Image credits: 1) Visitors at the 2017 Ohio State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition, Photo by Amanda Etchison; 2) Students whose work is featured in the 2018 Ohio Civil Rights Commission Youth Art Exhibition pose for a photo, Photo by Amanda Etchison; 3) Blue Star Museums graphic, Image courtesy of the National Endowment for the Arts; 4) Great Lakes Theater's performance of Macbeth, Photo courtesy of Great Lakes Theater; 5) Ohio Senator, astronaut, and veteran John Glenn, Photo Credit: NASA; 6) A student participates in a graphic novel creation workshop hosted by the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, Photo courtesy of the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning; 7) Women to Watch Ohio - 2018 post card, image credit: Carol Boram-Hays, WHOOSH (detail), 2017, steel, duct tape, 114" x 80" x 48"; 8) The artists of Women to Watch Ohio - 2018, Photo courtesy of the Riffe Gallery; 9) Lorenzo Carson, He's God in Columbus, Acrylic on canvas; 10) Robin Roberts, An Evening at Malabar Farm, 2016, Oil on canvas, 15 1/2" x 19 1/2"; 11) Ohio Poetry Out Loud logo



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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 6:51 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Report, Monday, February 22, 2016
Attachments: Feb22.htm; Feb22House.htm; Feb22Senate.htm;
160222dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Monday, February 22, 2016

Higher Education MBR Expands Community College Options, Implements Affordability Recommendations

Education 'Deregulation' Bill Amendments On Hold, Chairman Says

Former Lawmakers Look To Replace Faber In The Senate

After One Candidate Drops Out, Three Republicans Face Off In House District 47 Primary

Kasich Jostles With Rubio For Bush Donors Following SC; Graham, Sabato Mull Potential Rubio-Kasich Ticket

Politics Notebook: Kasich Draws Attention For 'Kitchen' Remark, Signs PP 'Defund' Bill; Poll Shows 74% Of Ohioans Support Medicinal Pot...

Court Briefs: High Court Sets Execution Date; Visiting Judge To Hear Case; Web Site On Judicial Candidates Updated

Capitol Scene: Chabria To Leave Gov's Office, Join ORP; Staff Changes Announced At Buckeye Institute, AICUO, HPIO

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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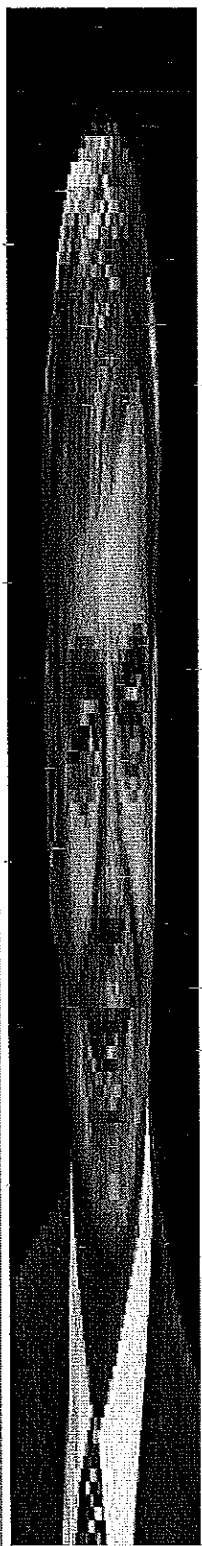
Volume #85, Report #34 -- Monday, February 22, 2016

Higher Education MBR Expands Community College Options, Implements Affordability Recommendations

The administration continues its focus on lowering the cost of college degrees in a higher education mid-biennium review plan unveiled Monday.

The proposal would allow community colleges to offer up to 10 bachelor's degree programs and would create a pilot program in which high school students can receive college credit for math and English remediation courses.

Among other MBR provisions Chancellor John Carey announced at a press event at Lorain County Community College, universities would be required to implement a handful of recommendations from the governor's Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education. (Fact Sheet)



John Carey

"The issue of college affordability is more important than ever. Across the country, the cost of college has far outpaced consumer price index and even healthcare costs. That cost has put the American dream of a college degree out of reach for a growing number of students and families. This is unacceptable," Mr. Carey said.

"Controlling college costs to ensure that more Ohioans can obtain a college degree or credential remains a top priority for Governor Kasich and the General Assembly."

Additional provisions in the bill that Rep. Tim Brown (R-Bowling Green) is expected to introduce on Tuesday include:

- Requiring the Department of Education to study income-sharing agreements as a possible strategy to reducing student loan debt.
- Becoming the 10th state to join the Midwest Exchange Program, which is a tuition reciprocity program that would allow students to enroll in programs at other states' institutions at a tuition rate that's lower than what typical out-of-state students would pay.
- Creating more "3+1" pathways between two- and four-year institutions so that students are studying at cheaper community colleges longer.
- Joining a partnership with the Western Governors University to award degrees in four areas based on competency and not just the amount of time spent in the classroom.

Joining Mr. Carey were higher education leaders who applauded the plans to expand efforts to reduce higher education costs by supporting dual enrollment programs and pushing collaboration between universities and colleges.

Other speakers included: Lorain County Community College President Roy Church; Sinclair Community College President Steve Johnson; Ray Craig, dean of Bowling Green State University's College of Arts and Sciences; Frank Calzonetti, vice president of government affairs at the University of Toledo; Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville); and two LCCC students.

In particular, they spoke to the success of 3+1 programs and pointed at the MBR plans as a necessary step toward bringing the initiative to scale statewide.

Mr. Church said students at his two-year institution have saved millions of dollars and shaved years off their higher education careers by taking at least 75% of their classes there before earning a bachelor's degree from a university.

"You can use College Credit Plus and 3+1 and we can assure you that you can graduate with a bachelor's degree by age 20 at less than 20% of the cost of taking that same

baccalaureate degree if you had to leave Lorain County and go to (a university offering a) four-year degree," he said. "It's not saying one pathway is better than another, it's saying we need all the pathways we can get in Ohio."

Universities are also supportive of plans to move students more quickly through higher education and at a lower cost, Mr. Craig said.

Bowling Green has been among those schools offering a 3+1 program for more than a decade and CCP has brought some first generation students to the university that may have never pictured themselves there otherwise, he said.

"We've been doing this already for well over a decade. We know that it works. It can be successful for our citizens, our universities and community colleges," Mr. Craig said.

Messrs. Church and Craig said they're hopeful that state support for the program will give it the push it needs to mount in the same way dual enrollment has since the Department of Higher Education and ODE began pushing CCP last year.

Mr. Johnson added that community colleges offering bachelor's degrees that aren't available at nearby universities will also be beneficial because it will allow them to offer credentials in career fields that are specific to the region.

Twenty-five other states permit community colleges to offer advanced degrees, he said.

"This is the kind of policy bill that will help us move forward," Mr. Johnson said, referring to Lumina Foundation research that has determined Ohio needs to increase its percentage of residents with a post-secondary degree from 35% to 65% to fill job demands in the coming years.

When the MBR plan was revealed, Jack Hershey, president of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, also touted its potential benefits.

"These reforms proposed today shine the light on a pathway that has emerged under Governor Kasich that allows students to obtain a degree from their favorite university, while saving up to 80% off the traditional cost of attendance by completing as much of their coursework as possible at a community college," he said in a statement. "The ability for middle class families, single parents, and working adults to obtain a debt-free college degree is once again a reality in Ohio."

Inter-University Council of Ohio President Bruce Johnson said the organization is still examining the proposals to determine its stance, but is supportive of the administration's ongoing efforts to expand higher education options.

"Overall, I think that we appreciate the chancellor's focus on affordability and access and we think that a large and growing percentage of students who are entering public institutions of higher education are choosing public universities and that's because of their evaluation of the value that public universities provide," he said in an interview.

"Certainly providing really good, high-quality choices is great because the state needs to focus on bridging its education gap," Mr. Johnson added.

Education 'Deregulation' Bill Amendments On Hold, Chairman Says

A bill slated for a number of revisions, including holding charter school sponsors harmless for report card scores, has been pulled from the House Education Committee's agenda.

Chairman Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said last week that the measure (SB 3) would see "quite a few" changes over the course of back-to-back meetings scheduled for Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 19, 2016)

However, the Monday meeting was canceled late last week and Tuesday's has been moved to 2 p.m. The bill and a presentation from the Department of Education were removed from the agenda of the latter meeting.

The delay is caused by a desire on behalf of the legislature and the administration to continue working on the bill before any changes are made public, Rep. Brenner said. He expects any disagreements to be resolved by the time the House returns to session the week of March 14.

"Hopefully we'll get the issues resolved between now and when we come back," he said in an interview.

The chairman was reluctant to reveal what the planned omnibus amendment will include or what proposals are proving to be the most contentious, but said changes will address policy decisions made in the last year.

Despite reports that the proposals would seek to weaken recently enacted charter school overhauls, Rep. Brenner said he doesn't think that's the case.

"There is a discussion of some other issues around equivalency, but that goes back to prior legislation," he said.

Sen. Peggy Lehenr, the Senate Education Committee chairwoman who was behind a number of the HB2 provisions, said attempts to water them down have been unsuccessful.

"I haven't heard of anything that's giving me heartburn," she said of potential updates to the so-called education de-regulation bill. "I know that there have been efforts to put some things in but to my knowledge they're not going in the bill and therefore I'm fine with it."

The chairwoman added that she's supportive of plans to provide safe harbor for charter school sponsors from state report card grades as long as it's only for the 2014-15 school year.

In its original state, the measure is aimed at rewarding high-performing school districts by releasing them from some state requirements.

Former Lawmakers Look To Replace Faber In The Senate

Matt Huffman and John Adams, both of whom left the House in 2014 due to term limits, are running for the seat that comprises Allen, Champaign, Shelby and Mercer counties along with portions of Auglaize, Logan and Darke counties.

Mr. Adams, a businessman and former Navy SEAL, did not respond to multiple attempts to contact him.

Mr. Huffman, a private attorney who rose to the ranks of speaker pro tempore in his first tenure in the legislature, said he has always been drawn to public service.

Prior to his time in the General Assembly he served on the Lima City Council for 14 years, including seven as the body's president.

"If you feel like you can contribute you need to do that in whatever way you can," Mr. Huffman said.

If elected, Mr. Huffman said he hopes to boost manufacturing in the district through increased vocational training and remove disincentives to work.

"We can't fill jobs," he said. "We have jobs that are going unfilled."

More educational dollars should be spent on vocational training and less should be spent on welfare programs, according to Mr. Huffman.

"We understand that in bad times people lose their jobs and they need a little bit of a boost," he said, but added, "Everybody has to do a job at some point in their life that they don't like."

Mr. Huffman also said he will push for a more business-friendly climate in Ohio by fighting efforts to raise revenues through what he deems as backdoor tax increases - "retroactive fines, penalties, things of that nature," he said.

"There should never be a surprise from the government that money is owed by a business, especially when there is a newly acquired business," he said.

Providing clarity in the rule-making process and moving from an income tax to a sales tax are also priorities of Mr. Huffman.

During his first stint in the legislature, Mr. Huffman said one of his crowning achievements was the passage of legislation to standardize contracts between health care providers and insurance companies (HB125, 127th General Assembly). He said the law could likely use some updating.

"Six years since that bill was passed there's been a lot of backsliding in that regard," he said.

Mr. Huffman, who considers himself to be a "small government, pro-low tax, pro-life, pro-second amendment Republican," believes he has a proven track record of getting things done in the Statehouse that would be of value to the legislature.

"You can be whatever you say you want to be, but you also have to be effective," he said. "That's why we were able to pass a pretty conservative agenda."

During his tenure in the House, Mr. Adams was considered among the more right-leaning members of a conservative majority under then-Speaker Bill Batchelder. He was elected twice to serve in caucus leadership.

Along with the usual conservative causes such as tax cuts and anti-abortion initiatives, Mr. Adams was a staunch proponent of oil and gas drilling in parks and other state lands and sponsored legislation to that effect (HB133, 129th General Assembly).

His anti-abortion efforts included a bill to require paternal consent for abortions (HB252, 128th General Assembly).

Outside of his General Assembly activities, Mr. Adams served as the Ohio legislative chair of American Legislative Exchange Council.

No Democrat filed to run for the heavily Republican seat.

After One Candidate Drops Out, Three Republicans Face Off In House District 47 Primary

An ex-mayor, a school board member, and a Toledo business owner are elbowing for a shot at the 47th House District seat occupied by term limited Rep. Barbara Sears (R-Maumee).

A fourth GOP contender - Monclova Township trustee and Mercy St. Vincent Foundation Development Director Barbara Lang - last month dropped out of the race following discussions with party leaders, saying a crowded primary is not in voters' best interest.

Among the remaining candidates are realtor and former Waterville Mayor Derek Merrin, Sylvania school board member Vicki Donovan Lyle, and business owner and former Sylvania township trustee Kevin Haddad.

The winner of that contest will face Democrat Michael Sarantou of Sylvania Township come November.

The trio of GOP candidates spoke in interviews about their goals for the district if elected.

Mr. Merrin, who has earned endorsements from Rep. Sears, Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon), and Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green), served on the Waterville City Council between 2007-2008

He was first elected in 2007, unseating a three-term Democrat and becoming the youngest mayor in Ohio at the time when he took office in 2008. He credits that win to a message of fiscal conservatism and open government.

"I governed as a strong fiscal conservative who opposed tax increases," he said. "I implemented many cost savings reforms. I'm a strong believer we must empower our local officials by addressing state laws that restrict their ability to govern."

After his term ended and he decided not to seek reelection, he spent four years working for the state auditor's office and is now a realtor and real estate investor.

"My number one priority will be creating an environment that ignites Ohio's economic engine," he said. "I believe our state needs pro-growth reforms to our tax code, regulatory rules, and legislation that furthers individual freedoms."

Ms. Lyle has served on the Sylvania school board since 2004 and owns a business specializing in health insurance and benefit consulting.

She said her experience as a school board member overseeing a district with an \$82 million budget has given her an appreciation for public office and the accountability that comes with it.

"We're expected to keep ourselves fiscally solvent and responsible and accountable in a transparent way to the community," she said. "All of those critical pieces are part of what any good elected official (does) in terms of having that kind of background and experience that's going to translate to the bigger stage."

She said she wants to reduce the state's role in the classroom, by decreasing standardized testing and "teaching to the test." Other priorities include better matching job opportunities with potential workers and addressing the financial burden she said is placed on individuals and businesses to secure healthcare.

If elected, she said, she'd focus on being open and accessible to constituents.

"I've had 30-plus years in the workforce having my own business as a small business owner," she said. "In addition to that, I think my time on the school board has served me

well to understand that listening is a primary component for an elected official. It's not about our agenda, but what are the concerns for our constituents."

Mr. Haddad is a former president of the Township Association of Lucas County. He's also a real estate owner and for 40 years owned and operated a Toledo hair salon.

After being elected township trustee in 2009, Mr. Haddad lost reelection in 2013. He previously mounted a failed bid as an independent in 2012 for a county commissioner seat. After finding difficulty winning local races as a conservative, he said, he believes he'll have greater odds in a Statehouse race.

"For me, it's not about the job, not about the money," he said. "It's about fixing the state up before it gets wiped out."

He said he wants to reverse cuts to the local government fund enacted in recent years, but also institute new accountability measures to monitor how those funds are used.

"If we restore the local government fund in a way that would go to each community - I'm not going to give it to the counties - I'm going to ask a lot of people give us your budget and we're going to audit you to make sure you spent that money properly on those issues," he said.

He said he'd push for an elimination of school levies, which he contends are "illegal and unconstitutional."

Mr. Merrin alleges his two opponents aren't conservatives and said he has widespread support in the district. He said he wants to better control government spending while lowering taxes.

"I'm the only conservative that is running," Mr. Merrin said, claiming that his opponents each "have a record of voting and supporting increased taxes."

"I'm the only candidate that has consistently opposed tax increases as an elected official," he said.

Ms. Lyle, in response, said her opponent was likely referring to a series of school levies voters had approved during her time on the school board. She said the board worked to ensure citizen comments were received when weighing potential cost savings efforts and levy proposals.

Like with all school levies, she said, it's not the school board approving the property tax increase but the voters. She said she would prefer no taxes be increased, but that the board is forced to act within the confines of the current funding system.

"We take every effort and every opportunity to be judicious and fiscally responsible and conservative as we can; we value and appreciate the taxpayers' investment," she said. "But we also understand we are limited in our options of how to raise revenue - of which

that is one. So it is the voters who decide, not the school board, as to whether (an increase in) taxes will be put in place."

Mr. Haddad said he was able to pass three of his four priorities as a township trustee and that several cost saving measures he proposed were voted down by other trustees.

He criticized Mr. Merrin for his handling, while mayor, of an ordinance that would have barred sex offenders from living in certain parts of the city. The ordinance, which Mr. Haddad contends would have concentrated sex offenders in a handful of neighborhoods, was later scrapped by the city council in a 6-1 vote in 2008 following public opposition.

"When I was a trustee, I worked conservatively," Mr. Haddad said. "I can foresee the future on a lot of issues and I look at every angle of it and I make sure it's done as properly and accurately as possible so we don't have any problems."

Subscribers Note: *These stories are part of a series on contested primaries heading into the March 15 election. Updated candidate lists and related information are available on the Gongwer Elections Page.*

Kasich Jostles With Rubio For Bush Donors Following SC; Graham, Sabato Mull Potential Rubio-Kasich Ticket

Unlike Gov. Bush, the Kasich camp made clear early on it did not have high hopes for South Carolina, instead preferring to lay groundwork in friendlier upcoming Midwestern states like Michigan. Mr. Bush announced Saturday night he was suspending his campaign, a move that enabled Kasich backers to tout their candidates as the last governor standing.

Kasich for America Chief Strategist John Weaver said the South Carolina results show the field has been winnowed to a four man race and that Gov. Kasich has emerged victorious from the "governor's bracket."

"Only four candidates have top-three finishes in any of the early states and can justify staying in," he said. "While others were making their last stand in South Carolina, John Kasich strengthened his organization and support - despite being outspent by tens of millions of dollars. He also focused on the key states ahead for us, like Michigan, where he is currently second, Massachusetts and Vermont."

But Gov. Kasich faces an uphill battle jostling with Sen. Rubio to pick up remnants from Mr. Bush's failed campaign; those donors and staffers may be more drawn to the senator, who has raised more money and seen more success in the Iowa caucuses and SC primary than Gov. Kasich.

"John Kasich may be able to compete in places such as Massachusetts and Michigan in early March, and hang on to win Ohio with the hope that his delegates prove crucial," according to analysis from Sabato's Crystal Ball. "But he just isn't built to play in enough

states, nor does he have a broad enough appeal in the GOP, to truly challenge for the nomination."

"Most mainstream Republicans will sooner or later move to Rubio, but will it be soon enough? He can't keep on finishing second or third - or fifth, as he did in New Hampshire. You have to start winning, but where?"

On Monday, former candidate and Bush backer Sen. Lindsay Graham mused during an interview that a Rubio-Kasich ticket "would be (a) very potent ticket in the fall and maybe help us stop Trump."

Added Sabato's Crystal Ball: "Rubio might want to consider a daring gambit - openly offering Kasich the vice presidential slot in exchange for the Ohio governor's support."

Gov. John Kasich finished fifth out of six candidates in the South Carolina Republican primary Saturday, landing far behind winner Donald Trump. Mr. Trump won 32.5% of the vote, while Mr. Kasich won the support of 7.6% of voters.

Sen. Rubio won a narrow second place victory at 22.5%, followed by Sen. Ted Cruz at 22.3%. Gov. Kasich fell just short of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who came in fourth with 7.8%. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson earned 7.2% of the vote.

The Kasich campaign is banking on a successful showing in Michigan, where a weekend American Research Group poll ranked him in second at 17%, above Sens. Rubio and Cruz, who were each at 12%.

The Kasich campaign on Monday announced its Michigan team (full roster), which will be chaired by former congressman Pete Hoekstra, State Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, State House Speaker Pro Tempore Tom Leonard, and former RNC committeeman Chuck Yob.

With the field narrowing, Gov. Kasich is expected to face increasing calls to withdraw in an effort to consolidate support behind Sen. Rubio among establishment figures who hope to mount an effort to thwart Mr. Trump and Sen. Cruz from landing the nomination. Gov. Kasich's continued presence may siphon support that might otherwise be thrown at the freshman senator from Florida.

Kasich Gains/Loses Endorsements: On Sunday, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported that Kasich campaign Colorado co-chair B.J. Nikkel is endorsing Sen. Rubio. The paper quoted the former state lawmaker as saying "it's time for conservatives of conscience to rally behind the one man who can defeat New York billionaire Donald Trump."

At the same time, billionaire financier Stanley Druckenmiller threw his support behind Gov. Kasich, according to the *New York Times*.

"Mr. Druckenmiller confirmed in an email that he was supporting Mr. Kasich, but did not elaborate," the paper reported. "Last year, he donated more than \$450,000 to groups

supporting Mr. Kasich, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey and former Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida."

It remains to be seen who, if anyone, Mr. Bush might endorse. A *Politico* report Sunday cited those close to Mr. Bush as saying a Kasich endorsement was "unlikely." But an endorsement of Sen. Rubio might also be a stretch considering the pair's increasingly contentious relationship on the campaign trail in recent months.

Gov. Kasich landed several endorsements in recent days, including those from former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld, former Nevada GOP Chairwoman Amy Tarkanian, and Nevada Speaker John Hambrick. Also endorsing the governor are the *Waco Tribune-Herald* and the *Corpus Christie Caller Times* of Texas.

The Kasich campaign Sunday announced it has hired Mike Schrimpf, formerly chief communicator for Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, to oversee its communication outreach. Kerry Knott, former chief of staff to former U.S. Majority Leader Dick Arney has been hired as the campaign's senior policy adviser.

Coming Soon: GOP candidates will next focus on Nevada, where caucuses will be held on Tuesday. A CNN debate is scheduled for Thursday, though qualifying criteria have not yet been announced.

After Nevada is a key March 1 date, when nine states hold primaries and three states hold caucuses in the so called SEC Primary. Primaries will be held that day in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. Alaska, Colorado and Minnesota have caucuses on March 1.

The Kasich-backing super PAC New Day for America on Monday announced the rollout of its national political operation which will involve more than 50 staff members and 14 officers across 12 March primary states.

Targeted states include Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Vermont, Virginia, Kentucky, Maine, Hawaii, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio and North Carolina.

"Our Super PAC's focus on the ground game is unique and, just as we did in New Hampshire, we fully expect our team to impact the race for the nomination," New Day spokeswoman Connie Wehrkamp said. "We are strategically placing our focus and resources where we can make the biggest impact and ensure John Kasich, the one Republican who can win in November, is our nominee."

In a Monday Emerson poll of Massachusetts, conducted Feb. 19-21 with a 5.7 percentage point margin of error, Gov. Kasich placed third at 13%, behind Mr. Trump at 50% and Sen. Rubio at 16%.

Politics Notebook: Kasich Draws Attention For 'Kitchen' Remark, Signs PP 'Defund' Bill; Poll Shows 74% Of Ohioans Support Medicinal Pot...

Remarks from Gov. John Kasich on women leaving their kitchens to campaign for him drew quick backlash Monday, one day after the governor signed a bill to "defund" Planned Parenthood in Ohio.

The governor made the remark during a town hall in Fairfax, Va., as he sought to explain how he was elected to the Ohio Senate in 1978.

"We just got an army of people and many women who left their kitchens to go out and go door to door and put yard signs up for me," he said according to video that first caught attention.

The initial video, posted by a YouTube account that has released a handful of previous anti-Kasich videos, did not show how Mr. Kasich concluded the remark.

Subsequent video of the full remark added context, showing that Gov. Kasich went on to say that campaign occurred "all the way back when things were different. Now you call homes and everybody's out working. But at that time, early days, it was an army of the women that really helped me get elected to the state Senate."

Twitter users quickly seized upon the statement, followed closely by national media outlets.

Kasich for America spokesman Chris Schrimpf responded to the outcry, saying in a statement that the governor's campaigns have "literally been run out of his friends' kitchens and many of his early campaign teams were made up of stay-at-home moms who believed deeply in the changes he wanted to bring to them and their families."

"That's real grassroots campaigning and he's proud of that authentic support," Mr. Schrimpf said. "To try and twist his comments into anything else is just desperate politics."

The Ohio Democratic Party subsequently painted the governor as out of touch, accusing him of giving *Mad Men* television character and womanizer "Don Draper a run for his money."

The remarks came one day after the governor signed a bill (HB 294) to eliminate \$1.3 million in state funding to Planned Parenthood. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 10, 2016)

The Planned Parenthood Action Fund said the bill will have "devastating consequences for women" across the state.

"John Kasich is proudly eliminating care for expectant mothers and newborns; leaving thousands without vital STD and HIV testing, slashing a program to fight domestic violence, and cutting access to essential, basic health care," President Cecile Richards said. "It's clear Kasich has no regard for women's health or lives and will stop at nothing to slash health care for millions."

Ohio Right to Life, in contrast, praised the bill's signing.

"Thanks to the pro-life leadership of Gov. Kasich and his work with Ohio Right to Life, Ohio's abortion industry is shrinking," ORTL President Mike Gonidakis said. "As Planned Parenthood haggles over the hearts and brains of aborted babies, Ohio Right to Life is marking history with legislation that is both ethically consistent and fiscally responsible."

Pot Amendment: A poll released Monday by Marijuana Policy Project showed nearly three-fourths of Ohio voters support amending the constitution to legalize medical marijuana for those with terminal or debilitating petitions.

The poll, conducted by Public Policy Polling, shows that 74% of voters support a proposed amendment, with 22% opposed, according to a news release.

"It's become pretty common knowledge that marijuana can be incredibly beneficial in the treatment of a variety of medical conditions," Mason Tvert, a spokesman for Ohioans for Medical Marijuana, a committee that has been formed to support MPP's forthcoming ballot initiative, said in a statement.

"It's not surprising that a vast majority of voters agree patients should be allowed to consume it if their doctors think it could be helpful. There are few laws still on the books that are as unpopular as those that prohibit sick and dying people from accessing medical marijuana."

According to the poll, 85% of self-identified Democrats and 69% of self-identified Republicans said they supported legalizing medical marijuana.

Ohioans for Medical Marijuana is drafting a ballot initiative and expects to start the petition process later this month, according to the release. Another pro-marijuana group has already suspended its petition efforts in favor of supporting the MPP-backed proposal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 19, 2016)

"Ohio's current marijuana policy is antiquated and inhumane," Mr. Tvert said. "We hope to give voters an opportunity to change that this November. We're confident that most Ohioans will support a well-written initiative that gives seriously ill people the right to use medical marijuana if their doctors recommend it."

8th Congressional District: Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) on Sunday announced he has earned the support of Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones and Montgomery County Sheriff Phil Plummer in the race to succeed former U.S. Rep. John Boehner.

Sen. Beagle is among more than a dozen GOP candidates vying for the seat in an upcoming special election. Sen. Beagle and Rep. Tim Derickson (R-Oxford) are the two most high-profile contenders.

U.S. Senate Race: A poll from the Democratic polling outfit PPP shows U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) battling weak approval numbers.

The poll found the senator with a 30-39% approval rating, placing him "very much in the danger zone for reelection based on those low approval numbers," according to the group.

Former Gov. Ted Strickland and Cincinnati Councilman PG Sittenfeld are competing in the Democratic primary for the chance to unseat Sen. Portman.

Mr. Sittenfeld on Friday criticized Gov. Strickland for failing to show up to a Monday event at the Cleveland City Club where Mr. Sittenfeld had hoped the candidates would debate. Gov. Strickland has repeatedly rebuffed Mr. Sittenfeld's calls for debates, saying he'd prefer to focus on competing with Sen. Portman.

Court Briefs: High Court Sets Execution Date; Visiting Judge To Hear Case; Web Site On Judicial Candidates Updated

The state's high court has set an execution date for a man convicted of the 2004 killing a Toledo woman who lived who lived in the same apartment complex.

In a 5-2 decision issued with no opinion, the court set an Oct. 17, 2019 execution date for James Frazier.

Justice Paul Pfeifer issued a dissent in the case. He was joined by Justice Terrance O'Donnell.

"At this time, the state is incapable of properly executing the 25 people for whom execution dates have previously been set. It serves no rational purpose for this court to continue to set execution dates while significant logistical obstacles remain in place and more legal challenges are likely," Justice Pfeifer wrote.

In October, the state pushed its earliest execution date back to 2017 due to difficulty in obtaining the drugs used for the lethal injection procedure. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 20, 2015)

The state currently has 11 executions scheduled for 2017, eight scheduled for 2018 and six scheduled for 2019.

Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the House that would end capital punishment in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 27, 2015)

Web Site Updated: Continuing the effort of Chief Justice O'Connor to create a more informed electorate when it comes to the judiciary, judicialvotescount.org has been updated to provide voters with information about the candidates that will be on the ballot this year, the court reported.

A total of 145 judicial seats will be on the ballot this year, including three Ohio Supreme Court seats, 27 court of appeals seats and 115 common pleas court seats.

The web site provides biographical information on candidates and explanations on why they are running for a particular office, according to the court.

Ran by the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, the web site was created in the wake of 2014 survey that found many Ohio voters do not vote in judicial elections due to a lack of knowledge about the candidates, the court reported.

According to the chief justice, on average, about 25% of voters who go to the polls do not cast ballots for judicial candidates. In Cuyahoga County in 2012, she said, about 40% of voters neglected to vote for judicial candidates. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 11, 2016)

Other partners in the non-profit web site include Chief Justice O'Connor, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Newspaper Association and the Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

Visiting Judge: Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge Elizabeth Schuster will hear oral arguments Tuesday in a lawyer malpractice case.

Judge Schuster will fill in for Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, who recused herself in the case of *Ratonel v. Roetzel & Andress*.

At issue in the case is whether a Dayton law firm can be used for malpractice for failing to pursue claims that were not in the written agreement but were discussed between the law firm and the client and whether it can be sued for malpractice if it pursues a legal claim sought by the client, but withdraws it and advises the client to seek other counsel to pursue the claim or represent themselves, according to the court.

The case stems from a malpractice lawsuit a California women filed against another law firm after she claimed it cause her to lose \$1 million in a real estate transaction. The Dayton law firm was originally hired to represent her in that case.

Capitol Scene: Chabria To Leave Gov's Office, Join ORP; Staff Changes Announced At Buckeye Institute, AICUO, HPIO

Jai Chabria, a key executive staff member for Gov. John Kasich, is leaving the governor's office to work for the Ohio Republican Party.

Mr. Chabria has served as senior advisor to Mr. Kasich since he took office in 2011. That job entailed vetting Mr. Kasich's appointments, among other things.

"I am enormously grateful to Jai for his many years of friendship, counsel and outstanding public service to me and the people of Ohio," Mr. Kasich said in a statement. "While it is difficult to see Jai move on, I know that great things lie ahead for him in this next phase of his career. I look forward to our continued deep friendship."

Mr. Chabria's last day with the governor's staff is Friday. The Powell resident's job at ORP was described by the party as "a senior position that will oversee the preparation and planning for the Republican National Convention in Cleveland in July."

"The world spotlight will be on Cleveland in July as our party nominates the next President of the United States. It's a tremendous and exciting opportunity for Ohio," ORP Chairman Matt Borges said. "Jai is a seasoned professional with top notch experience. We are pleased to have him join our team as we plan and prepare for the convention."

AICUO: Andrew Lampkins has joined the staff of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio as director of external relations, the group announced recently.

He previously served dual roles with the Center for Healthy Families as the director of outreach and engagement and with Lardon & Associates as a director of business development.

Mr. Lampkins' prior experience includes serving as the community & small business manager for Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. The Otterbein University graduate will be responsible for AICUO's affiliate member program, inter-college collaborations, events and educational programming, and the expansion of the group's member energy conservation and sustainability initiative.

Buckeye Institute: Daniel J. Dew has joined the staff of the Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions as a full-time Criminal Justice Fellow, the group announced.

A published author on criminal justice issues and a former Visiting Legal Fellow at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., Mr. Dew will focus on efforts to revise Ohio's criminal code and updating the state's civil asset forfeiture law, among other things, according to the institute.

"Daniel is a national expert on criminal law, and we are pleased to bring him on to expand Buckeye's capacity to formulate sound criminal justice policy for Ohio that can be easily replicated in other states," institute President and CEO Robert Alt said in a release.

HPIO Hire: Former state employee Rebecca Sustersic has been hired as a policy analyst with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, the group announced recently.

Reem Aly and Amy Bush Stevens have been promoted to vice president and Sarah Bollig Dorn has been promoted to manager, Health Policy and Education, the group said.

Ms. Sustersic was previously employed at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for three years, first as a health care policy analyst and more recently as manager of medical reimbursement and coding policy, according to HPIO. She holds degrees from

Ohio State University and Bowling Green State University. Ms. Sustersic also served as a Legislative Service Commission fellow in 2009.

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, February 23

Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room 1960, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Thursday, February 25

Ethics Commission, Rm. G, 3rd Fl., 30 E. Spring St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, February 23

Quinnipiac University to release poll of Ohio likely voters on presidential primary

Ohio senators, faith leaders, others

news conference on ending "pregnancy discrimination", Press Conf. Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

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House Activity for Monday, February 22, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 471 ■ **COMMISSION ELIMINATION** (Brown, T.) To formally abolish certain boards and commissions that have completed their work and to abolish the Compact with Ohio Cities Task Force.

HB 472 ■ **RENEWABLE ENERGY** (Strahorn, F.) To unfreeze the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction, to permit changes in and Public Utilities Commission action on electric distribution utility portfolio plans in 2016, to revise the setback requirement for economically significant wind farms, and to repeal the setback requirement for wind farms of fifty megawatts or more.

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB 124 ■ **AWARENESS DAY/MONTH** (Thomas, C.) To designate May as "Asthma Awareness Month" and to designate May 5 as "Childhood Asthma Awareness Day."

HB 241 ■ **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Grossman, C., Curtin, M.) To designate the month of September as "Hunger Action Month."

HB 290 ■ **TERMINAL PATIENTS** (Sprague, R., Anielski, M.) To permit a physician to treat a terminally ill patient with a drug that is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and permit a drug manufacturer to provide such a drug to the patient or physician.

HB 305 ■ **RETIREMENT SYSTEMS** (Schuring, K.) To include new nonteaching employees of The University of Akron as members in the Public Employees Retirement System and to make an appropriation for the University's School Employees Retirement System employer surcharge payments.

HB 325 ■

DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT (Green, D., O'Brien, S.) Regarding encouraging pregnant women who are addicted to controlled substances to seek treatment.

HCR 21 ■

DD EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (Romanchuk, M., Antonio, N.) To urge the Congress of the United States to request that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services revise its guidance on employment services for individuals with developmental disabilities to maintain their right to participate in programs offered by facility-based day programs, training centers and sheltered workshops.

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

HB 294 ■

(Enacted)

ABORTION (Patmon, B., Condit, M.) To require the Department of Health to ensure that state funds and certain federal funds are not used either to perform or promote nontherapeutic abortions, or to contract or affiliate with any entity that performs or promotes nontherapeutic abortions; to provide for health departments and WIC clinics to determine presumptive eligibility for pregnant women and children; and to allocate existing funding within the Ohio Department of Health's budget to the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers for safe sleep, birth spacing, and smoking cessation initiatives.

Signed: February 21, 2016

Gongwer Coverage

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Senate Activity for Monday, February 22, 2016

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Legislative-Committee on Public Health Futures: Appoint Sen. Yuko and Carla Hicks

Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board: Appoint Sen. Peterson to replace former Sen. Widener

Sunset Review Committee: Appoint Sen. Coley to replace former Sen. Widener

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

SB 260 ■ **CAPITAL REAPPROPRIATIONS (Coley, B.)** To make capital
(Enacted) reappropriations for the biennium ending June 30, 2018.
Signed: February 21, 2016

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, February 23

Legislative Committees

House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.

- HB 455** **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE** (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 407** **BODY CAMERAS** (Boyce, K., Grossman, C.) To require law enforcement agencies that use body cameras to adopt written policies for operation of the cameras and to require agencies to make the adopted policies available to the public. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 361** **COMMUNITY EVENT FUNDING** (Brenner, A.) To authorize boards of township trustees and boards of park commissioners to expend funds for the public purpose of presenting community events in their parks and at other recreational facilities. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 375** **SNOW REMOVAL** (Brown, T., Arndt, S.) To authorize townships to require the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting property and to impose a fine for failure to do so. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- HB 333** **BIDDING THRESHOLDS** (Schaffer, T., Hambley, S.) To increase the monetary thresholds above which competitive bidding is required for township road construction, repair, or maintenance contracts, and to increase the monetary thresholds above which a force account assessment is required for a township road construction, repair, or maintenance project. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- HB 378** **TRAFFIC ARRESTS** (Hambley, S., Rezabek, J.) To authorize law enforcement officers of township police districts and joint police districts, and township constables, serving specified small populations to make arrests for motor vehicle-related violations committed on an interstate highway in the same manner as township law enforcement officers serving larger populations. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- HB 413** **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Brinkman, T.) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a

fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HB 462

POLICE DISTRICT (Hagan, C., Sprague, R.) To establish a joint police district, to modify the membership of a joint police district governing body, to expand the offense of solicitation to also apply to a person who agrees with another to engage with the other person in sexual activity for hire, to provide that the "prescription exemption" from the drug possession offenses does not apply to a person who uses more of the drug than the maximum prescribed amount per day or the maximum amount to be used within the prescription timeline or who administers or takes the drug in a manner not prescribed by the prescribing health professional, and to provide immunity from civil liability to a peace officer who administers naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Peterson, B., 466-8156), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 9

TAX EXPENDITURES (Boose, T.) To create a Tax Expenditure Review Committee for the purpose of periodically reviewing existing and proposed tax expenditures. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

SB 264

TAX HOLIDAY (Bacon, K.) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 233

REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (Schuring, K.) To authorize municipal corporations to create downtown redevelopment districts and innovation districts for the purposes of promoting the rehabilitation of historic buildings, creating jobs, encouraging economic development in commercial and mixed-use areas, and supporting grants and loans to technology-oriented and other businesses. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Transportation & Infrastructure (Committee Record) (Chr. Boose, T., 466-9628), Rm. 122, 9:30 a.m.

SB 182

ROAD NAMING (Balderson, T., Peterson, B.) To designate a portion of United States route twenty-three within Pickaway County as the "Army Specialist Gerald R. Jenkins Memorial Highway" and a portion of United States route sixty-two within Pickaway County as the "Army PFC Kevin C. Ott Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB 461

LICENSE PLATE (Roegner, K.) To establish the Cuyahoga Valley National Park license plate and to require a \$15 contribution for the issuance of the license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.

HB 207 **WORKERS COMPENSATION (Henne, M., McColley, R.)** To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 273 **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Bacon, K.)** To enact the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 27 **FIREFIGHTER CANCER (Patton, T.)** To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Seitz, B., 466-8068), North Hearing Rm., 11 a.m.

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Andre Porter, chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio**

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474), Rm. 119, 11:30 a.m. or after session

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:30 a.m.

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m. or after session

HB 334 **TAX EXEMPTION (Buchy, J.)** To exempt memberships to gyms or other recreational facilities operated by nonprofit organizations from sales and use taxation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 297 **TAX CREDIT (Hill, B.)** To authorize a refundable income tax credit for current livestock owners who invest in a manure storage or treatment facility or acquire manure application equipment or manure handling and transportation equipment. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.

HB 444 **ALCOHOL SAMPLES (Blessing, L.)** To allow certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 351 **LIQUOR LAWS (Perales, R., DeVitis, T.)** To increase the amount of spirituous liquor that an A-3a liquor permit holder may annually manufacture and to allow an A-3a permit holder to obtain an A-1-A liquor permit. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 278 **HUMANE SOCIETIES** (Hambley, S.) To require approval by the board of county commissioners, instead of the probate judge, of appointments of agents by county humane societies outside a municipal corporation, to specify that a county humane society is a political subdivision, to make its directors, agents, officers, and employees subject to the Ethics Law, and to increase the salaries paid to the agents. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 466-6711), Rm. 121, 2 p.m. or after session

- **SB3 and ODE presentation removed from the agenda**

HB 441 **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES** (McColley, R.) To permit a student enrolled in a nonpublic school to participate in interscholastic activities at a school district that is not the student's resident district under certain circumstances and to prohibit a student who participates in the College Credit Plus program from being denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics solely due to participation in the program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 383 **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Hagan, C., McColley, R.) To require one-half unit of economic and financial literacy in the high school social studies curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each state institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act." (2nd Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 401 **PRIVATE SCHOOLS** (Brinkman, T.) With regard to requirements for chartered nonpublic schools. (3rd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 410 **TRUANCY** (Rezabek, J., Hayes, B.) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

SB 257 **REAL PROPERTY** (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 359 **ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY** (Duffey, M., Gonzales, A.) To create an address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, or sexual battery. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 158 **DISABILITY TERMS** (Dever, J., Howse, S.) To change the variations of the term "mentally retarded" to "person with an intellectual disability." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 242** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hagan, C., Dever, J.) To designate the fourth Sunday of July as Blue Star Mothers Day. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.
- HB 347** **CIVIL FORFEITURES** (McColley, R., Brinkman, T.) To eliminate civil asset forfeiture proceedings and to modify the law governing criminal asset forfeitures. (7th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 215** **VEHICLE FORCIBLE ENTRY** (Hughes, J., LaRose, F.) To grant a person immunity from civil liability for any damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a minor or an animal from the vehicle because the minor or the animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 446** **OVI OFFENSES** (Manning, N.) To specify that the prison term that may be imposed for a third degree felony operating a vehicle while intoxicated ("OVI") offense is a definite period of twelve, eighteen, twenty-four, thirty, thirty-six, forty-two, forty-eight, fifty-four, or sixty months, to add "harmful intoxicant" to the definition of "drug of abuse" for the purposes of commercial driver's licensing law, to allow a person to assert the existing affirmative defense of driving in an emergency with regard to a prosecution for driving under a suspended driver's license under specified laws, and to specify that certain enhanced penalties for speeding violations apply regardless of whether the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to speeding. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- HB 451** **PROTECTION ORDERS** (Boose, T.) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding. (2nd Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- HB 439** **VOYEURISM** (Anielski, M.) To include an impaired person as a victim of voyeurism and to include conduct involving an impaired person within the offenses of pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 432** **ESTATE LAW** (Rezabek, J.) To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 436** **DUI SENTENCES** (Cupp, R., Rogers, J.) To authorize a judge that grants limited driving privileges to a second-time OVI offender to order the termination of the mandatory immobilization order. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 222** **TRANSIT WORKER ASSAULTS** (Driehaus, D., Perales, R.) To increase the penalty for assault when the victim is an employee of an Ohio transit

system whom the offender knows or has reasonable cause to know is such an employee engaged in the performance of the victim's duties; to permit the court to impose a fine of up to \$5000 and a six-month or lifetime prohibition from riding an Ohio transit system for assault committed in such specified circumstances; to authorize Ohio transit systems to post a warning sign indicating that abuse or assault of staff will not be tolerated and might result in a felony conviction; and to increase the penalty for evading payment of the known fares of a public transportation system. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 363

JUVENILE HEARINGS (Reece, A.) To require restraints to be removed from an alleged or adjudicated delinquent child prior to the commencement of a juvenile court hearing or proceeding unless the court determines that the use of restraints is necessary to prevent physical harm to the child or another person or to prevent the child from escaping. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

HB 173

VETERAN IDENTIFICATION (Anielski, M., Terhar, L.) To authorize county recorders to issue Ohio veterans identification cards. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

HB 295

LICENSE PLATE (Ruhl, M.) To create the "Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal" license plate. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 104

LICENSE PLATE DISPLAY (DeVitis, T.) To specify that failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle that is required to display a license plate on the front and rear of the vehicle is a secondary traffic offense, to establish a maximum fine of \$25 for such an offense, and to amend the version of section 4503.21 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2017, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date. (3rd Hearing-Possible vote)

HB 388

OVI OFFENSES (Scherer, G.) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Sunset Review Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.

- **Agency reports from Reclamation Commission, Reclamation Forfeiture Fund Advisory Board, Board of Cosmetology, Optical Dispensers Board, Child Care Advisory Council, Child Support Guideline Advisory Council, Children's Trust Fund Board, Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council, State Victims Assistance Advisory Committee, Ohio Expositions Commission, Data Collection and Analysis Group, Dentist Loan Repayment Advisory Board, Help Me Grow Advisory Council, Hospital Measures Advisory Council, Infant Hearing Screening Subcommittee, Infection Control Group, Intergovernmental Council**

and Advisory Panel of the Lupus Educational and Awareness Program, Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures, Maternity and Newborn Advisory Council, Medically Handicapped Children's Medical Advisory Council, Physician Loan Repayment Advisory Board, Radiation Advisory Council, The Director of Health's Advisory Group on Violent Deaths, The Director of Health's Committee on Concussions and Head Injuries Sustained by Athletes, Council to Advise on the Establishment and Implementation of the Birth Defects Information System and Ohio Medical Quality Foundation

Agency Calendar

Board of Landscape Architects, 77 S. High St., 31st Flr. Board Room, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, Foundation Office, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m. (Agriculture Development Subcommittee)

Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room 1960, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, Foundation Office, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 11:30 a.m. (Educational Subcommittee)

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 4 p.m.

Event Planner

Nevada Republican caucuses

Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' (OFSWCD) 73rd annual conservation partnership conference, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus
Quinnipiac University to release poll of Ohio likely voters on presidential primary
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Legislative Breakfast Reception, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ohio senators, faith leaders, others news conference on ending "pregnancy discrimination", Press Conf. Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Rep. John Bocchieri (D-Poland) fundraiser, The Chintz Room, 121 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, \$500, \$250 to John Bocchieri for Ohio Committee)

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants annual legislative reception, The Lounge at the Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$1,000, Event Sponsor \$500, Individual \$350 to Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, The Gold Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$1,000, Event Sponsor \$500, Individual Attendee: \$350 to LaRose for Senate)

Rep. Stephen Slesnick (D-Canton) fundraiser, The Chintz Room, 121 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, \$500, \$250 to Committee to Elect Stephen Slesnick)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) and Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio and/or Seitz for Senate Committee)

Conservative Energy Day Reception, Statehouse Museum Gallery, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (RSVP to Mike Hartley at mike@swingstatestrategies.com)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

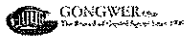
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Ohio Report for Monday, April 11, 2016

House, Senate Chairs Set Criminal Justice Legislative Priorities For Coming Months

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OCMC Subcommittee To Present Congressional Redistricting Proposal Thursday

Bill Would Create Registry Of Parkinson's Patients To Aid In Research, Treatment

Graduates, ODE Tout First-Year Results Of Adult Diploma Program

AEP Names New Ohio COO; EDF Praises Kasich Administration For New Leak Detection Measure For Oil And Gas Facilities...

High Court To Hear Public Records Case Next Week; Oral Arguments Set In Five Other Cases

National Report: Ohio's Affordable Housing Lags Behind Needs Of Low Income Renters

Education Notes: 44 Applicants Seeking Superintendent Job; AG Says College, University Foundations Can Be Audited

Agency Briefs: Elevated Lead Levels Found In Statehouse Drinking Fountain; ODNR Awards Marine Patrol Grants; OEPA; Civil Rights...

Politics Notebook: Strickland Proposes Five Debates, Portman Campaign Aims To Contact 50K Voters; Buckeye Institute Slams Capital Bill; Planned Parenthood And Ohio Right To Life To Hit Statehouse...

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #69 -- Monday, April 11, 2016

House, Senate Chairs Set Criminal Justice Legislative Priorities For Coming Months

The legislator who leads the Senate Criminal Justice Committee said his goal for the group over the next several months is to avoid interfering with the work of the Criminal Recodification Committee.

Chairman Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said in an interview he does not want to move legislation before lawmakers break for the summer that could be at odds with recommendations from the committee charged with reviewing the state's criminal codes.

"I want to avoid doing anything that is going to be disruptive of the work that the Recodification Committee is doing," he said.

However, Sen. Eklund, a member of the ad hoc panel, also said his standing committee is "not going to be paralyzed."

One of his legislative priorities, he said, is a bipartisan bill (HB 164) sponsored by Rep. John Rodgers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville).

The measure, which already cleared the House, allows non-violent ex-offenders to have their records sealed if they have complied with all court ordered sanctions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 24, 2016)

"That strikes me as a positive initiative," Sen. Eklund said.

Although acknowledging that the legislation may be too complex to move through the committee before the General Assembly's summer recess, Sen. Eklund said another bill he is very interested in is one that would end the death penalty for those that suffer from certain severe mental illnesses at the time of their crimes.

Sponsored by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland), the bill (SB 162) is facing opposition from the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 27, 2016)

"It's a big bill. It's an important bill. I don't know that it's something that we can get done that quickly," Sen. Eklund said, adding that discussions with OPAA are ongoing.

Another measure he hopes to get to the Senate floor that he does not feel would conflict with the work of the Recodification Committee is a bill (HB 151) sponsored by Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Independence) designed to combat cyber stalking. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 7, 2015)

On the House side, Chairman Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), who said he has been in close contact with members of the Recodification Committee, has several legislation priorities he desires to move through the House Judiciary Committee in the coming months. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 29, 2016)

One is a bill (SB 76) sponsored by Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) and Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) that specifies the actual servicing of a protective order or consent agreement to the targeted individual isn't necessary for a violation charge if the person knew of the order and "recklessly violated" its terms. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 30, 2015)

The measure was introduced after the Ohio Supreme Court overturned the conviction of a man because he had not been officially served with a protective order by an officer of the court.

"There some disagreement between the House and Senate on this issue, but I'm optimistic we can come up with a compromise on this bill," Rep. Butler said.

Another priority, according to Rep. Butler is a bill (SB 215) sponsored by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) and Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Copley Twp.) that would provide civil immunity to those who break into cars to rescue animals or children. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 10, 2016)

"In general I think the concept is a correct one," Rep. Butler said.

He said he also expects to take up a measure (HB 307) sponsored by Rep. Pelanda designed to provide judges with more discretion in imposing driver's license suspensions for drug-related offenses that did not involve a vehicle. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 13, 2015)

Also likely to be a priority for the committee, according to Rep. Butler, is a bill (HB 283) to require DNA testing for certain misdemeanor sex crimes and another bill (HB 268) designed to make it easier for victims of human trafficking to expunge their records.

"I do hope we'll be able to pass those out of committee," Rep. Butler said.

Sunset Review Process About Half Completed; Committee Expected To Wrap Up Work In May

About halfway through the Sunset Review process, dozens of entities have said their services are no longer needed.

"We already have a decent number," said Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander), who chairs the Sunset Review Committee.

In fact, a total of 40 entities have asked to be sunset, including the Labor-Management Government Advisory Council, the Ohio Parks and Recreation Council and the Ohio Housing Study Committee.

Sen. Jordan said he expects more entities will ask to be discontinued as the process moves forward. The panel's next meeting is 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

"There will be more," he said. "Every time we have hearings, there are a number of agencies and boards that ask to be sunset."

Not only does Sen. Jordan anticipate more entities to ask to be sunset, he also expects the committee to make some cuts of its own.

"There are a few members of the committee that are looking at additional boards and commissions to be addressed," he said, adding additional hearings would likely be necessary in that case to allow the entities to justify their continued existence.

When all is said and done, Sen. Jordan said, he does not expect the process to result in substantial savings for taxpayers. He does, however, hope the committee's work will improve the business climate across the state.

"Hopefully beyond saving some money, it will get government out of the way of different businesses and entrepreneurs," he said.

Sen. Jordan, though, would like to go farther.

"I would probably like to see more get cut than will actually get cut. But it's a committee process," he said. "There may be some on the other side that think we are going a little bit too far."

Sen. Jordan said he expects the committee to wrap up its work in May and issue a report some time thereafter.

"I'm not sure if we are actually going to get the bill passed until later in the year," he said.

Once a bill is introduced, Sen. Jordan said he hopes for it to garner widespread support.

"It depends on how far we go," he said. "I would like to get a bill that most people can agree to."

The review process occurs every six years. Nearly 80 boards, commissions and study panels were eliminated through legislation (SB171, 129th General Assembly) enacted at the end of the last Sunset Review process.

**OCMC Subcommittee To Present Congressional Redistricting Proposal
Thursday**

Members of an Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission subcommittee plan to have an updated congressional redistricting proposal formed in time for committee discussion Thursday.

The OCMC's Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Committee is scheduled to meet at 2:30 p.m. Thursday - the first meeting since a four-member subcommittee began working in February to reach a compromise agreement on revamping the redistricting process in the spirit of Issue 1.

The full committee initially intended to vote on the measure at its February meeting before several last minute amendments halted the process. Chairman Fred Mills then appointed the subcommittee to come to an agreement on those changes within six weeks. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 4, 2016)

Two months later, discussions are ongoing.

But subcommittee member Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) said in an interview that subcommittee members and staff should have a proposal finalized in time for the committee to discuss it at Thursday's meeting.

"We'll have something to present to the committee on Thursday on where we are," Sen. Tavares said. "We've had discussions with interested parties, with members of the subcommittee, and kind of gone back and forth."

Although the subcommittee has had no informal meetings since its first meeting in March, she said members and staff have continued their discussion over the last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 9, 2016)

She described the discussions as positive and said she expects the final proposal, which could still be changed by the committee, will honor the spirit of Issue 1, which handed over the legislative mapmaking process to a newly created bipartisan committee.

"We just want to make sure the proposal and our discussion has been focused on how the lines would be drawn and not who is drawing them, which is a good step forward," she said.

Should the subcommittee fail to reach an agreement by Thursday's meeting, members will likely still report to the committee by updating members on its progress.

"The subcommittee will probably present where they are on Thursday and our hopes are we will have something the subcommittee can say is a consensus report because we really want the rules for drawing congressional districts to be specific so it would be difficult for either party to engage in gerrymandering," Sen. Tavares said.

The Thursday unveiling would come just more than a week since Gov. John Kasich's State of the State address, in which the governor doubled down on his call for

lawmakers to embrace change to congressional redistricting. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

"When pure politics is what drives these kinds of decisions the result is polarization and division," the governor said in the speech. "I think we've had enough of it."

Still, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) and House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) have given indications the General Assembly will be sluggish in picking up discussion of the OCMC proposal if it clears the commission.

Sen. Faber said the issue isn't part of his forthcoming agenda, while Rep. Rosenberger called legislative and congressional redistricting are "apples and oranges." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2016)

Bill Would Create Registry Of Parkinson's Patients To Aid In Research, Treatment

A recently introduced bill would make Ohio the fifth state to track data on people who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

The bill (HB 499), sponsored by Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City) and Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), would authorize the Department of Health to create a registry of patients with Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and helped write the bill, joined Rep. Grossman at a Statehouse news conference Monday, saying that the database is a step toward improving care and research on the condition.

"This data is useful and absolutely necessary not only in the treatment of Parkinson's disease but also in understanding it and thereafter reaching for a cure," Mr. Mingo said.

If the bill passes, Ohio would be the fifth state to create a database of Parkinson's patients, after Utah, California, Nebraska and Washington.

"It will assist us in gathering data that will help researchers in the state and throughout the nation better understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with that particular disease," Mr. Mingo said. "Understanding that will help us dedicate resources, it will help us identify those who need those resources to the extreme and it will also help us understand, categorially, how it is we should go about finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and otherwise treating it."

About 1 million people have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease nationwide, Mr. Mingo said, but it's unclear how many people suffer from the condition in Ohio.

"Whether it's 200,000 or 200, we need to know that and understand what's happening here in the state of Ohio with people with Parkinson's disease," he said.

The data would also help shed some light on who the condition affects. Many people who suffer from Parkinson's are elderly, and Mr. Mingo said that means the number of people diagnosed will increase as the population gets older. While the common perception is that it mostly affects older people, he said it affects many others. Mr. Mingo is 44 and publicly announced his diagnosis in 2013.

The bill would allow ODH to draw up rules regarding exactly how the registry would work. The database would allow ODH to release summary data to show trends and help with research. It's unclear at the moment how much the program would cost.

Mr. Mingo said it would also help patients by helping connect them with others who are going through the same thing.

"When you're initially diagnosed with a condition like this your immediate instinct is to look around within your family, throughout your peers and those you know and try to see who else has this disease and what does it mean for a person's life to walk with it," he said.

Rep. Grossman said the bill is another step toward helping those suffering from Parkinson's and other movement disorders.

"Whatever we can do to help the quality of life for Ohioans in meaningful ways, there should be no hesitancy to be able to achieve that goal," she said.

Graduates, ODE Tout First-Year Results Of Adult Diploma Program

The State Board of Education on Monday recognized graduates of the state's adult diploma program, who were among 78 Ohioans to earn diplomas during the pilot year.

The program, which was created through a previous mid-biennium review budget bill (HB 483, 130th General Assembly), enrolls Ohioans ages 22 and older at community colleges and career technical centers where they can simultaneously work toward a diploma and credentials in an in-demand career field.

Stark State Community College, Pickaway-Ross Joint Vocational School, Miami Valley Career Technical Center, Cuyahoga Community College and Penta Career Center were involved in the pilot program, which began this school year. Three other sites received funding through the state budget and will begin accepting students in July. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 13, 2015)

"This is probably one of the most exciting things I've had the opportunity to participate in," said Steve Gratz, Senior Executive Director for Student Support and Education Options for the Department of Education.

"This is a game-changer for people. Not only for those individuals, for their families and their communities and so I am just so pleased," he added, saying he believes the program is the first of its kind in the country to offer a diploma issued by the State Board of Education.

Program graduates also spoke to the board, sharing emotional stories of how their lives have been changed for the better because of the credentials and job training they've received.

The state covers the cost of the program, reimbursing pilot sites as students hit milestones, Mr. Gratz said. Because the program is competency based, students work at their own paces toward diplomas.

Michelle Profit, who attended Miami Valley Career Tech, told the board that she couldn't focus in GED classes or during tests so she was never able to obtain a certificate after dropping out of high school during her sophomore year.

Twenty-six years later, she said her dreams of finishing high school have come true thanks to the state offering an additional pathway for individuals older than 21 who never graduated.

"Not only has it fulfilled my heart's desire but it has also given my family a brighter tomorrow," Ms. Profit said, adding that she earned nursing credentials through the program and now works at a hospital.

The law requires pilot sites to offer general instruction in conjunction with training for in-demand jobs that have been identified through OhioMeansJobs and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. To be included on the list, the job must pay at least \$12.54 per hour, which is about \$26,000 per year.

Board members offered support for the graduates, who filled the meeting room and encouraged the administration to continue the program into the next biennium.

"What you've accomplished makes you an inspiration to all of us, especially the more than one million Ohioans who don't have a diploma," Board President Tom Gunlock said.

The state budget included \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2017 to continue the expanded pilot program.

In addition to the Adult Diploma Program, the state has two other options for adults who didn't earn a high school diploma: The GED program and the 22+ program, which is tailored to those who are already employed and are just a few credits short of high school graduation.

AEP Names New Ohio COO; EDF Praises Kasich Administration For New Leak Detection Measure For Oil And Gas Facilities...

AEP has selected Senior Vice President and Treasurer Julie Sloat as the next president and chief operating officer of its Ohio utility unit.

Ms. Sloat will begin her new post May 2, the company announced Monday. She will succeed outgoing President and COO Pablo Vegas, who in March accepted an executive leadership position at Columbia Gas of Ohio parent NiSource. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 15, 2016)

AEP Executive Vice President and COO Robert Powers, who will oversee Ms. Sloat in her new role, said her regulatory and financial expertise "will serve us well as we continue our focus on making investments that provide more reliable service, develop renewable power resources and give our Ohio customers tools to control how and when they use electricity."

The company said it expects to soon name a new treasurer to succeed Ms. Sloat.

Ms. Sloat has served as senior vice president and treasurer since January 2013, according to the company, where she oversees the company's treasury, trusts and investments. Between 2009-2013, she was vice president of regulatory case management.

"As important as her business acumen, Julie is able to connect with and develop positive, mutually beneficial relationships with people," Mr. Powers said.

"A native of Bolivar, Ohio, and graduate of the Ohio State University, Julie has strong ties with Ohio companies and community organizations. She knows and loves the Buckeye State and will be focused on how AEP Ohio can best serve our customers and benefit Ohio's economy," he said.

Gas Leaks: The Environmental Defense Fund praised Gov. John Kasich's administration for new plans to reduce air pollution stemming from the oil and gas industry.

Earlier this month, the administration announced it plans to require permits for new and modified equipment at compressor stations, which would require those companies to check for leaks quarterly.

The EDF said those checks will help catch leaking Volatile Organic Compounds and methane, which it said contribute to global warming.

"We applaud Gov. Kasich for, once again, stepping forward to deliver clean air protections that Ohio communities deserve and joining other leading states in regulating harmful methane emissions," EDF President Fred Krupp said in a statement. "Today's announcement underscores that fast-growing recognition that, for natural gas to meet its promise as a lower-carbon fuel, methane emissions can't go unchecked."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the natural gas sector could be emitting up to 1.7 million metric tons of methane.

"Requiring operators to systematically check equipment for leaks is a proven, cost-effective way to reduce harmful emissions and associated risks to public health and the environment," Senior State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Manager Andrew Williams said. "We commend the administration for taking this important step and look forward to working with OEPA and other stakeholders to strengthen the proposal."

Ozone Standard: State regulators and interest groups are pushing back on a recent U.S. EPA white paper that they say fails to adequately account for background ozone under a newly lowered federal ozone standard.

Such ozone cannot be controlled by a state because it stems from a natural event, such as a wildfire, or enters the state from another state, according to the Center for Regulatory Solutions.

More than a dozen entities, including state agencies, air quality experts, and business groups have submitted comments protesting what they call "serious flaws" in the paper. They're arguing that the EPA's failure to account for background ozone would "unfairly punish Western states and compromise their ability to comply with the stringent" air quality guidelines adopted last year.

In October, the EPA announced a long-awaited move to lower the federal ozone standard from 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 1, 2015)

"The agency suggests that the relief mechanisms in the statute are sufficient to address the rare instances where background ozone pushes a state out of compliance," according to the center's comments. "To the contrary, our review reveals that neither assertion is accurate or substantiated by the facts. What is clear, however, is that EPA is trying to regulate something for which the science is still not fully understood."

High Court To Hear Public Records Case Next Week; Oral Arguments Set In Five Other Cases

An attorney representing the Ohio Innocence Project next week will argue that the Ohio Supreme Court should overturn a 1994 ruling and compel the Columbus Division of Police to provide him access to the case file of a man convicted of a 2007 murder.

Cincinnati attorney Donald Caster will argue that the court's ruling in *State ex rel. Steckman v. Jackson* should be overturned because of revision to Criminal Rule 16 made in 2010, the court reported.

In *Steckman*, the court ruled that access to law enforcement evidentiary records should be determined by the discovery rules for criminal cases rather than the Ohio Public Records Act.

Mr. Caster will argue that the that 2010 rule change paved the way for the court to overturn the 1994 decision and allow for the examination of investigatory records once a trial begins.

CDP will argue that it is following the law laid out in the *Steckman* case in denying the records request of Mr. Caster.

According to the court, CDP will claim that many of the records are "specific investigatory work product," which includes personal notes, working papers, memoranda and evidentiary findings, all of which were exempted from public record law in a 1997 case.

The Innocence Network and the Ohio Coalition for Open Government have filed briefs in support of Mr. Caster's case.

The court will hear five other cases next week:

- In *Jackson v. State*, a death row inmate will appeal his sentence arguing that the judge did not take mitigating factors into account at a resentencing hearing.
- In *250 Shoup Mill v. Tax Commissioner*, the court will decide if a non-profit real estate company that leases property to a Dayton charter school and is-owned by a charter-school corporation is eligible for a property tax exemption.
- In *Jacobson v. Kaforey*, the court will determine if a woman, who as a child was assigned a conservator who then sent her to live with an uncle in Florida, can file a lawsuit claiming the conservator and a hospital violated the law.
- In *Aalim v. State*, A juvenile facing aggravated robbery charges in adult court will argue that the statute allowing his case to be moved from the juvenile system is unconstitutional because the juvenile court judge was not given an opportunity to determine if he would be responsive to rehabilitation in the juvenile system.
- In *State v. Jones*, The court will decide if a Cleveland man convicted of a 1993 more than 20 years later should be subject to sentencing laws at the time of the offense.

The latter two cases, along with the public records case, will be heard on April 20 at Meigs High School in Pomeroy as part of the court's off-site program.

National Report: Ohio's Affordable Housing Lags Behind Needs Of Low Income Renters

A new national analysis of U.S. Census data shows Ohio by and large has just 38 affordable and available housing units for every 100 extremely low income renter households.

But Ohio isn't alone, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, which analyzed the data. The Buckeye State joins 49 other states and Washington D.C. in not being able to adequately meet the housing needs of impoverished residents.

The report, called "The Gap: The Affordable Housing Gap Analysis 2016," examines PUMS data - the most detailed level of data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. In doing so, the group determined that "clearly a new approach is needed to address the housing needs of households with the lowest incomes."

That's because the United States has 7.2 million too few affordable rental units available to those considered "extremely low income," which is defined as those with an income at or below 30% of the area median income.

Of those ELI renters, 75% were "severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities," according to the study. In all states, at least 55% of ELI renters put more than half their incomes toward rent and utilities, according to the group.

NLIHC Vice President of Research Andrew Aurand said the study "reveals an alarming reality about housing for extremely low income households."

"What is frustrating is the lack of timely action to address the issue," Mr. Aurand said. "Millions of people in America are living in unaffordable rental homes. They are forced to cut their spending on food, transportation and health to pay rent."

In Ohio, there were 274,346 too few units for ELI households. In all, 71% of ELI households demonstrated a severe housing cost burden.

Of Ohio's three largest metropolitan areas, each had a deficit of housing units per 100 households at or below the ELI threshold. But only Columbus had a number of available units below the national level.

Of those metro areas:

- The Columbus area required 55,675 more affordable housing units to adequately serve extremely low income renters
- The Cincinnati area - including portions of Kentucky and Indiana - had 47,486 too few units for that population
- The Cleveland-Elyria area had 55,579 too few units

Of all states, North Dakota fared the best, but that state still had a shortage with 64 affordable and available units per 100 ELI households. Nevada, in contrast, fared the worst nationally with 17 units per 100 such households.

Sheila Crowley, who recently retired as the group's president and CEO, said more funding to the National Housing Trust Fund would help close the gap.

So would success of the group's ongoing campaign United for Homes, she said, which lobbies for reducing the portion of a mortgage eligible for tax breaks from \$1 million to \$500,000 and changing the deduction to a 15% non-refundable tax credit. She said those moves would save up to \$200 billion in the next decade that could be invested into the trust fund.

"The National Housing Trust Fund was explicitly created to address the most critical housing needs in our country, housing affordable to those with the lowest income," Ms. Crowley said. "We can end homelessness and housing poverty in America without adding a penny to the federal deficit through the United for Homes campaign. All we need is the will."

Education Notes: 44 Applicants Seeking Superintendent Job; AG Says College, University Foundations Can Be Audited

The State Board of Education this week will begin reviewing the qualifications of 44 applicants who are looking to be the next superintendent of public instruction.

Board President Tom Gunlock said the applications will be made public on Wednesday and board members will have until April 28 to pick five candidates that they would like to interview.

Ray & Associates, a contracted search firm, is reviewing the applications that were due Friday and will also select the five interviewees, he said.

The goal is to complete interviews in May and select a superintendent shortly after, the board president said.

"Hopefully somebody will come to the forefront and we can get this done. If not, we may have to call people back for additional interviews, but hopefully we can get this thing done sometime in May," Mr. Gunlock said in an interview.

The chosen candidate, who will be paid \$210,000-\$250,000 annually, will replace former superintendent Dick Ross, who retired in December. Lonny Rivera, who has been serving as interim superintendent, said last year he wasn't interested in applying for the permanent post.

Foundation Audits: State Auditor Dave Yost is clear to continue reviewing the financial records of college and university foundations, per an Attorney General's opinion.

AG Mike DeWine recently issued an opinion stating that the foundations, which raise private funds to support the public institutions, are considered public entities and therefore subject to audits.

"We conclude that a public college or university foundation established as a private nonprofit corporation under R.C. Chapter 1702, the primary purpose of which is to solicit and receive, on behalf of a state college or university, gifts, donations, and bequests made for the benefit or use of the state college or university, and which is responsible for keeping records of donations for the state college or university, is an entity established by the laws of this state for the exercise of a function of government, and is, therefore, a public office," according to the legal opinion.

Yost spokesman Benjamin Marrison said the office requested clarification on foundation audits following push back from the University of Toledo and Youngstown State University. The latter hired legal counsel to debate the auditor's characterization of its foundation as a public entity late last year, Mr. Marrison said.

The opinion ensures that the auditor can examine foundation funds as he sees fit.

"We are pleased, but not surprised, that the attorney general agrees that these funds - collected on behalf of universities to benefit universities - are public dollars and subject to the scrutiny of state auditors," Mr. Yost said.

The office has been contracting with audit firms to examine college and university foundations as part of regular audits for more than 20 years, Mr. Marrison said.

Agency Briefs: Elevated Lead Levels Found In Statehouse Drinking Fountain; ODNR Awards Marine Patrol Grants; OEPA; Civil Rights...

The Capitol Square Review & Advisory Board on Monday tested water in the Statehouse after previous testing found elevated lead levels in a single drinking fountain.

Columbus news station NBC4 collected water samples in the building and testing showed that a fountain on the first floor of the Senate building had a "slightly elevated lead level," according to CSRAB.

To verify the tests, CSRAB completed its own and is expecting results to be available by Friday. All 17 drinking fountains and four kitchenettes in the Statehouse and Senate Building were tested.

The drinking fountain that was identified as having elevated lead levels was taken out of service last Friday when the results of the NBC4 tests were provided to officials, CSRAB said.

Natural Resources: The agency's Division of Watercraft will provide 24 communities with more than \$576 million to support marine patrol units.

"The 2016 Marine Patrol Assistance Grants will help local law enforcement agencies provide emergency response to boating-related incidents, conduct routine waterway patrols and purchase safety equipment for use on marine patrol vessels," according to an ODNR release.

As the number of registered recreational watercraft has increased in recent years, boating-related fatalities have decreased, the agency noted.

In 2015, a record 474,601 watercraft were registered, representing a growth of almost 40,000 in the last three years. Boating related fatalities, meanwhile, have decreased 12% since 1996.

Environmental Protection Agency: A public hearing is set for April 18 to gather input on a wastewater treatment plant expansion in Grove City.

The Ohio EPA said the expansion that discharges to a tributary of Big Darby Creek "would allow Franklin County to retire older wastewater treatment plants and would not accommodate new development."

The agency will take comments on the plans at 6 p.m. at Pleasant View Middle School, 7255 Knopp Road, Grove City. Comments can also be submitted to epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov or EPA-DSW, Attention Permits Processing unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43215-1049

Civil Rights Commission: The commission is requesting nominations for its 2016 class of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

The 8th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony will recognize Ohioans who have been leaders in human and civil rights issues in the state and have advanced quality and inclusion, according to a commission release.

Nominations are due by July 1 for the ceremony that will be held Oct. 6.

Politics Notebook: Strickland Proposes Five Debates, Portman Campaign Aims To Contact 50K Voters; Buckeye Institute Slams Capital Bill; Planned Parenthood And Ohio Right To Life To Hit Statehouse...

After refusing to debate primary opponent P.G. Sittenfeld, former Gov. Ted Strickland is now calling on Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) to accept at least five debates in his bid to oust the first-term incumbent.

In a letter to Sen. Portman, Mr. Strickland writes that he looks "forward to a spirited and vigorous campaign; one in which we outline our positions on key issues affecting the people of Ohio."

"Towards that end, I would like to propose a series of debates designed to highlight our priorities and the genuine policy differences that exist between us," the letter continues.

Mr. Strickland proposes the debates be held across the state, one in each region. He also called for the debates to be held in August, September and October.

"Collectively, we can demonstrate to the people of Ohio that we are committed to an open and fruitful discussion of the issues and in the process help inform the voters of the choice they face with this election," the letter reads.

Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said in a statement the campaign looks forward to comparing and contrasting the two candidates' records.

"This comes as a welcome surprise given that after a year of refusing to debate, Ted Strickland and his 'invisible' campaign had a change of heart and are now committed to an 'open and fruitful discussion of the issues,'" Ms. Rich said. "As Ted Strickland and his campaign are well aware, we are already receiving debate requests and we look forward to finalizing details with his staff."

Sen. Portman's campaign meanwhile announced a goal of contacting 50,000 voters on April 23 through an effort it has dubbed "Super Saturday."

During a previous "Super Saturday" in October, more than 600 volunteers contacted upwards of 41,000 voters in one day, according to the campaign.

"We are building the most advanced grassroots organization in Ohio history and we are excited about working with thousands of volunteers that know Ohio can't afford to go back to Ted Strickland's Ohio," Ms. Rich said.

"While Ted Strickland runs his 'invisible' campaign, we are proud to work with our impressive team of volunteers and interns who have helped us contact more than 1.5 million voters since last May," he continued. "Ohio voters will have a clear choice in November between moving forward with Rob's pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs, or returning to Ted Strickland's failed policies of higher taxes, more regulations, and bigger government."

Capital Bill: Ahead of the release of the capital bill (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 8, 2016), the Buckeye Institute is slamming the \$150 million likely to be set aside for local projects.

"At a time where critical infrastructure needs are emerging across the state, spending state dollars on items that should be paid for locally is not an optimal use of scarce resources," Greg Lawson, the organization's Statehouse liaison and policy analyst, said in a statement. "Ohio policymakers should focus on what is really needed to help the state prosper while letting local taxpayers make local decisions."

In a report issued, the organization lists what it believes to be the "five most ridiculous capital budget requests of 2016." They include:

- \$10.6 million for a "Triumph of Flight" statute at I-70 and I-75 in Dayton
- \$2 million to renovate an exhibit at the Cleveland Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

- \$1.5 million to refurbish parts of Mapfre Stadium in Columbus
- \$150,000 for the Madcap Productions theater and exhibit hall
- \$50,000-\$100,000 for the Bowling Green Curling Club ice rink

Abortion: Both sides of the abortion debate will converge on the Statehouse this week.

Ohio Right to Life will hold a Legislative Day on Tuesday at the Statehouse in which anti-abortion advocates will lobby for the "Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act."

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio on Wednesday will hold Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, beginning at Trinity Episcopal Church and moving to the Statehouse.

"Ohio, like many states, has seen an increase in barriers to women's access to vital and high quality health care services," the group stated. "This coordinated effort is part of a larger strategy that is being used nationwide to eventually remove access to safe and legal abortion."

Black Lung Measure: Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) on Monday touted the introduction of a bill (HB 510) designed to help protect coal miners who are diagnosed with black lung.

"Dealing with black lung disease is a tough reality for many of Ohio's coal miners who work some of our hardest and most dangerous jobs," he said in a statement. "Providing a fair opportunity for benefits as they deal with this debilitating disease is important for the miners and their families. I hope that my colleagues in the legislature will agree."

The legislation would create a workers' compensation process similar to that in West Virginia for coal miners with black lung.

"A miner who lives in Ohio but worked in West Virginia can currently receive at least partial benefits through West Virginia, but a miner who lives and works in Ohio has a more difficult time being approved for benefits," Rep. Cera said. "This bill will help provide a miner who has contracted black lung to have a better chance of receiving at least some benefit to help them through this difficult time."

Kasich Schedule: Gov. John Kasich has four campaign events scheduled this week in New York ahead of the state's presidential primary next week.

Gov. Kasich held two town hall events on Monday, including one hosted by Fox News' Sean Hannity, along with a press availability.

On Tuesday, the governor is set to deliver a speech in New York City on the "Two Paths" facing the American electorate in 2016.

GOP Dinner: The Ohio Republican Party's 2016 state dinner will feature radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt as the keynote speaker.

The June 4 event will also feature Sen. Portman.

Equal Pay: Democrats on Tuesday will hold a press conference in Akron to coincide with Equal Pay Day.

The event, which will feature Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper and Summit County Clerk of Courts Sandra Kurt, will highlight the gender pay disparity, which Democrats says amounts to about \$10,597 between men and women who work full time in the state.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, April 12

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Thursday, April 14

Criminal Justice Recodification Committee, House Finance Hearing Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 1 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, April 12

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Immunization Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse

Ohio Library Council Legislative Day, Statehouse, Columbus, (The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library's Mobile Technology Lab will be parked and available for tours on the Third Street side of the Senate Bldg. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Freedom of Choice Ohio's Annual Advocacy Day, Trinity Episcopal Church, 125 E. Broad St. & Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ohio Library Council news conference on ROI report, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, May 11

Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Senator Cafaro)

Saturday, June 4

Ohio Republican Party 2016 State Dinner, Hyatt Regency Ballroom, 350 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (See <https://www.ohiogop.org/statedinner/> for more information)

Tuesday, June 7

Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Huntington Park, 330 Huntington Park Ln., Columbus, 6 p.m., (Private Reception
at 6 PM - Game starts at 7:05 PM; Contribution Levels: Host - \$1,500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Friend - \$750 to Ohio Senate Democrats)

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House Activity for Monday, April 11, 2016

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB 133 ■ **AWARENESS MONTH** (Beagle, B.) To designate June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."

HB 57 ■ **MURDER SENTENCING** (Maag, R.) To change the sentence for aggravated murder.

HB 165 ■ **HUNTING** (Green, D.) To allow an individual on active military duty, while on leave or furlough, to hunt deer or wild turkey without procuring a deer or wild turkey permit.

HB 335 ■ **COURT JURISDICTION** (Craig, H., Grossman, C.) To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

SCR 2 ■ **DIABETES RESEARCH** (Balderson, T., Gentile, L.) To urge the United States Congress to increase federal funding for research and development involving advanced medical technology used in the treatment of type 1 diabetes.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

State Government: Remove Representative LaTourette; appoint Representative Young

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, April 12

Legislative Committees

House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 116, 8:30 a.m.

- SB 152** **CONTRACTOR LABOR** (Uecker, J.) To prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor to employ a certain percentage of individuals from the geographic area of the public authority for the construction or professional design of a public improvement. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 239** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Hughes, J.) To designate August 7 as Ohio Purple Heart Day. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 341** **TRANSPORTATION LAWS** (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- HB 449** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Romanchuk, M., Amstutz, R.) To designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 32** **EDUCATION ACT** (McColley, R.) To urge the United States Congress to pass the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2015. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.
- HB 302** **ANNEXATION** (Henne, M., Butler, J.) To provide that, beginning five years after a type-II annexation is approved, the annexed territory is subject to a fire, police, or EMS tax levy only if the levy is imposed by the subdivision that provides the fire, police, or EMS service to the territory. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 413** **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Brinkman, T.) To add to the purposes for which a board of township trustees may go into executive session, to permit a township to charge for recycling services, to reduce the population threshold for a township to adopt a limited home rule form of government, to authorize a township to purchase, lease, or provide underwater rescue and recovery equipment for fire and rescue purposes, to authorize boards of township trustees to pay for group life insurance for any employee, to make other

changes to the township laws, to allow taxing units to use the proceeds of a fire, police, or emergency services tax levy to pay costs related to the service for which the tax is levied, and to expand the public infrastructure improvements townships, municipal corporations, and counties may pay for using money from their public improvement tax increment equivalent funds. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 455 **BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE** (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 462 **POLICE DISTRICT** (Hagan, C., Sprague, R.) To establish a joint police district, to modify the membership of a joint-police district governing body, to expand the offense of solicitation to also apply to a person who agrees with another to engage with the other person in sexual activity for hire, to provide that the "prescription exemption" from the drug possession offenses does not apply to a person who uses more of the drug than the maximum prescribed amount per day or the maximum amount to be used within the prescription timeline or who administers or takes the drug in a manner not prescribed by the prescribing health professional, and to provide immunity from civil liability to a peace officer who administers naloxone to a person who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981**), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

HB 303 **DEED PROGRAM** (Dever, J., McColley, R.) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 229 **TRUST LAW** (Hambley, S., Bishoff, H.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 175 **TRUST COMPANY LAW** (Eklund, J.) To create the Ohio Family Trust Company Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

SB 226 **DEBT ADJUSTING** (Seitz, B.) Regarding debt adjusting. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (**Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474**), Rm. 119, 10 a.m.

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (**Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082**), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB 257 **REAL PROPERTY** (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 167 **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION** (Sweeney, M.) Regarding the term of a General Assembly member as a member of the Legislative Service Commission. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 275** **PHOTO MONITORING** (Patton, T.) To prohibit a local authority from deriving more than 30 per cent of the total annual revenue of the local authority from the issuance of tickets for traffic law violations based on evidence recorded by traffic law photo-monitoring devices. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 26** **MILITARY BRATPIN** (Sears, B., Dovilla, M.) To express support for the Military BratPin. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 87** **DAY DESIGNATION** (Slesnick, S.) To designate October 7 as Moses Fleetwood Walker Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 31** **STATE ROCK SONG** (Grossman, C., Stinziano, M.) To designate "Hang on Sloopy," which includes the following lyrics, as the official state-rock song: Hang on Sloopy, Sloopy hang on; Sloopy lives in a very bad part of town; All the girls I know they try to put my Sloopy down; Sloopy, I don't care what your daddy do; Don't you know little girl, I'm in love with you; Sloopy, let your hair down, let it down on me; Come on Sloopy let your hair down, Girl it down on me. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- Senate Insurance** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838**), **South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.**
- SB 27** **FIREFIGHTER CANCER** (Patton, T.) To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 95** **DENTAL SERVICES** (DeVitis, T.) To prohibit a health insurer from establishing a fee schedule for dental providers that are not covered by any contract or participating provider agreement between the health insurer and the dental provider. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 207** **WORKERS COMPENSATION** (Henne, M., McColley, R.) To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- House Session** (**Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357**), **House Chamber, 11 a.m.**
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584**), **Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.**
Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (**Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150**), **North Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.**
- HB 178** **WINE SALES** (Manning, N.) To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible amendments)
- HB 342** **WINERY PERMITS** (Young, R.) To create the Ohio Farm Winery Permit. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 37** **ALCOHOL POSSESSION** (Duffey, M., Stinziano, M.) To allow a person to possess beer or intoxicating liquor on the premises of a market if the beer or intoxicating liquor has been purchased from a D liquor permit holder that is located in the market. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- HB 60** **COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE** (Hall, D., Patmon, B.) To revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) (**Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366**), **Rm. 313, 1 p.m.**

- SB 264** **TAX HOLIDAY** (Bacon, K.) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2016 during which sales of back-to-school clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 130** **DATA OHIO BOARD** (Hagan, C., Duffey, M.) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make an appropriation. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)
- HB 391** **FINANCIAL LITERACY** (Terhar, L.) To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 483** **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** (Amstutz, R.) To modify programs administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), **Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m.**

- HB 227** **COSMETOLOGY LAW** (Roegner, K., Reece, A.) To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)
- HB 183** **STUDENT TRUSTEES** (Antani, N., Stinziano, M.) To grant student members of the boards of trustees of state universities and the Northeast Ohio Medical University voting power and the authority to attend executive sessions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- HB 444** **ALCOHOL SAMPLES** (Blessing, L.) To allow certain D liquor permit holders to provide free tasting samples of beer, wine, and spirituous liquor to a person who is 21 years old or older and a paying customer of the permit holder. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Senate Session (**Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900**), **Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.**

House Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 122, 2 p.m. or after session

HB 172 CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.) To enact the Fair and Accurate Reporting of Criminal Records Law, to require certain business entities that publish criminal record information to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, to provide a procedure by which a subject of published criminal record information may have incomplete or inaccurate information corrected or removed from the publication, and to provide remedies for the failure of a business entity to remove or correct incomplete or inaccurate information: (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

- **1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending introduction & referral of capital appropriations bill.**

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 3 p.m.

HB 404 SALES TAX REFUNDS (Schaffer, T.) To allow vendors to deduct or apply for a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards used to make purchases from the vendor. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 172 BULLION TAXES (Jordan, K.) To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 466 TAX EXEMPTION (Smith, R.) To specifically exempt digital advertising services from sales and use tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB 150 HOTEL INTERMEDIARIES (Grossman, C., Scherer, G.) To require hotel intermediaries to collect and remit applicable sales and use tax on the full amount paid for hotel lodging, to require hotel intermediaries to supply customers with itemized invoices, to specify that a hotel intermediary is presumed to have "substantial nexus" with Ohio if the intermediary arranges lodging at Ohio hotels, and to specify that hotels are not liable for the failure of a hotel intermediary to properly collect or remit applicable taxes. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.

HB 432 ESTATE LAW (Rezabek, J.) To revise the law governing decedent's estates by making changes in the Ohio Trust Code, the Probate Law, the Uniform Principal and Income Act, the Transfers to Minors Act, and the Uniform Simultaneous Death Act. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 339 FOREIGN LAW (Young, R.) To prohibit courts, administrative agencies, and arbitrators from applying foreign law to the detriment of constitutional rights under the United States and Ohio constitutions. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 268 HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Hall, D., Dever, J.) To expand the list of human trafficking-related convictions and delinquency adjudications that may be expunged, to increase the penalties for compelling prostitution and promoting

prostitution, and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

HB 362

STRANGULATION (**Stinziano, M.**, **Kunze, S.**) To prohibit a person from knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of another by strangulation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)

HB 38

PRISON TERMS (**Patmon, B.**) To create specifications that impose an additional prison term upon an offender who commits a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person and increase the period of commitment to the Department of Youth Services for committing an act that would be a felony offense against a disabled person or an elderly person if committed by an adult, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled person or an elderly person is the victim of the violation. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 451

PROTECTION ORDERS (**Boose, T.**) To provide that an individual's statutory priority to decide whether or not to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for the individual's relative is forfeited if the individual is the subject of a temporary protection order or civil protection order and the relative is the alleged victim or if the individual and the relative are married and the parties to a divorce, dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

SB 84

FLAG DISPLAY (**Coley, B.**) To prohibit manufactured homes park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of Ohio flags and blue star banners, gold star banners, and other service flags, and to prohibit manufactured homes park operators and landlords from restricting the display of the United States flag. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 464

NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIPS (**Terhar, L.**, **Brinkman, T.**) To specify that a National Guard scholarship recipient who fails to complete the recipient's term of enlistment in the National Guard due to enlistment, warrant, commission, or appointment in the United States armed forces is not liable for repayment of the scholarship. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 388

OVI OFFENSES (**Scherer, G.**) To authorize a court to grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device to first-time OVI offenders, to expand the penalties related to ignition interlock device violations, to modify the law governing the installation and monitoring of ignition interlock devices, to extend the look back period for OVI and OVI-related offenses from six to ten years, and to modify the penalties for OVI offenses. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute & vote)

- SB 123** **TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS** (Hughes, J.) To allow emergency personnel in public safety vehicles to report traffic law violations under certain circumstances. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- SCR 9** **IRAN AGREEMENT** (Uecker, J.) To urge the Congress of the United States to disapprove the Iranian nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- Sunset Review Committee** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104**), **South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.**
- **Reviews of Education Management Information System Advisory Board, English Language Arts Academic Standards Review Committee, Mathematics Academic Standards Review Committee, Science Academic Standards Review Committee, Social Studies Academic Standards Review Committee, Straight A Program Advisory Committee, Straight A Program Governing Board, Advisory Board to Assist and Advise in the Operation of the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, Board of Voting Machines Examiners, Workers' Compensation Board of Directors Nominating Committee, Technical Advisory Committee to Assist Director of the Ohio Coal Development Office, Supervisory Investigative Panel of the State Dental Board, Barber Board**
- House Community & Family Advancement** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Derickson, T., 644-5094**), **Rm. 114, 4 p.m.**
- HB 298** **DRUG TESTING** (Schaffer, T., Maag, R.) To require applicants for unemployment benefits to submit to a drug test under certain circumstances, to require the director of Job & Family Services to operate an Ohio Works First drug testing pilot program and to make an appropriation. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 286** **MARRIAGE** (Vitale, N.) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- Senate Education** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538**), **Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.**
- HB 299** **AUTISM SCHOLARSHIPS** (Blessing, L., Rezabek, J.) To permit the temporary, legal, or permanent custodian of a qualified child to apply for an Autism Scholarship. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB 241 **EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS** (LaRose, F.) With regard to the employment of specified education professionals by city, exempted village, and local school districts. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 252 **CARDIAC ARREST** (Hite, C., Patton, T.) With regard to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

Senate Energy & Natural Resources (Committee Record) (**Chr. Balderson, T., 466-8076**), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m. or after session

- **Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Frederick Cash, Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission; James Krimmel and John Petkovsek, Environmental Education Council; Kerry Krugh and David Kimberly, Radiation Advisory Council and Craig Porter, Reclamation Commission**

SB 269 **WATER SYSTEMS** (Schiavoni, J.) To require a public water system to provide notice of lead contamination not later than thirty days after becoming aware that lead contamination may effect the system's drinking water, to require the Director of Environmental Protection to provide the notice if the public water system fails to provide it, to require employees of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide continuing assistance to a public water system that fails to provide the required notice of lead contamination, and to require the Director to adopt rules that increase the monitoring frequency for lead and copper under specified circumstances. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 118 **HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE SYSTEMS** (Eklund, J.) To authorize a board of county commissioners or municipal legislative authority to elect to withdraw the county or municipal corporation from the application of any rule adopted after January 1, 2014, by the Department of Health governing the design of household sewage treatment systems. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 185 **IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS** (Seitz, B.) To revise the law governing special improvement districts created for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Agency Calendar

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Air Quality Development Authority, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1718, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Home Weatherization Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council, 77 South High Street, Room 1960, Columbus, 2 p.m.

Event Planner

Housing Ohio 2016 Conference, Sheraton Downtown Columbus, 75 E. State St., Columbus

Ohio Bankers League lobby day

Ohio Right to Life legislative day

Legislative leaders news conference on capital bill, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

House Democrats news conference on bill to restrict local hiring options, PLAs (SB152), George Washington Williams Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

State leaders news conference on efforts to boost fight against prescription drug abuse, CompDrug Inc., 1420 Fields Ave., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Individual attendee: \$350 to Friends of Kris Jordan)

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Legislative Reception, 52 East Gay St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

Bowling Green State University Statehouse Falcons reception, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (RSVP to batesdc@bgsu.edu)

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Tally Ho Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host \$2,500; Chair \$1,000; Sponsor \$500; Individual \$350 to Hackett for Ohio)

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Event Host \$2,500; Event Sponsor \$1,000; Individual \$500 to Citizens for Obhof)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Chintz Room, 121 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$1000; Sponsor - \$750; Friend - \$500 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Ontario) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and/or Romanchuk for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Capital Club, Scarlet & Gray Room, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Ron Young)

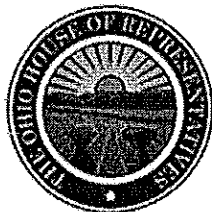
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From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:03 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora; Westlake, Libby; Smith, Kristen; Best, Carolyn
CC: VanBuskirk, Victoria; James, Ben
Subject: ALERT: Hagan Duffey HB 130 (Sending @ 5:20)
Attachments: Christina Hagan 8095.jpg; Mike Duffey 8425.jpg



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:

Media

contact: Ben James
May 18,

2016

614.

644.6030

Ohio House Passes 'DataOhio' Bill, HB 130 (Hagan, Duffey) to Increase Transparency of State Government in Ohio

COLUMBUS – By a unanimous vote of 90-0, the Ohio House of Representatives today passed House Bill 130, also known as DataOhio, legislation sponsored by State Representatives Christina Hagan (R-Alliance) and Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). A nearly identical bill passed the Ohio House last session by a unanimous vote of 92-0, but did not have time to pass the Ohio Senate during 'lame duck' session.

DataOhio would allow Ohio citizens to more easily find and use public record data online by standardizing formats to allow simplified programming and accounting methods, allowing quick comparison charts and graphs using public data. Possible uses include charts showing taxpayer spending, crime statistics, healthcare statistics and much more.

If enacted, DataOhio is intended to greatly reduce labor costs for research projects by eliminating repetitive tasks such as hand-retyping data into spreadsheets. In addition to supporting technology startup efforts, the bill could also help save taxpayer dollars by simplifying financial audits.

"DataOhio will make it easier to quickly and effectively obtain public information," said Rep. Hagan. "It is important that the public has confidence in our state and local governments, and I believe that providing greater, clearer access to data will provide much-needed transparency."

"DataOhio is about eliminating unnecessary expense created by over-reliance on paper records and other difficult-to-use systems," said Rep. Duffey. "DataOhio is essentially how online stock market and GPS data works today, but state and local governments have been slow to adopt the same best practices. The bill encourages better standards, but without mandates on local government."

A long list of witnesses have testified in support of DataOhio, including Ohio Auditor of State Dave Yost, State Librarian Beverly Cain, the Ohio Society of CPAs, the Ohio Newspaper Association, Greater Ohio, The Center for Community Solutions, the Buckeye Institute, OpenNEO, MORPC, and national transparency groups including the Data Transparency Coalition (which includes Ohio companies such as TeraData and StreamLink), the Sunlight Foundation and others.

The effort is also supported by individuals including Thomas Fitzpatrick, an economist from the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Ned Hill, an economist with The Ohio State University, David Landsbergen, an open data research professor with The Ohio State University, Jason Seligman, an economist with The Ohio State University, Brian Kelley, CIO for Portage County; and Gene Krebs, a former Ohio House Republican state representative.

DataOhio, as described in House Bill 130, consists of four primary components:

1. The bill creates a DataOhio Board to allow various groups to meet monthly to work on improving access to public records and recommend standards for how public records are organized.
2. The bill asks the State Auditor to create simplified accounting systems for public offices to allow "apples-to-apples" comparisons, as Ohio citizens might currently expect but which is not possible.
3. The bill creates a single-location website – data.ohio.gov – to function as a quick access portal, also known as an online data catalog, to save citizens time in searching one website rather than dozens of differently formatted websites.
4. As an incentive for publishing a small amount of open data, mostly to help get local governments more comfortable with publishing data online, the bill provides a framework for \$10,000 micro-grants to local governments if they successfully provide a small subset of data to the public online. The current version of the bill currently does not include any funding for the micro-grant program. Bill sponsors indicated they will be seeking agreement with the Ohio Senate on funding.

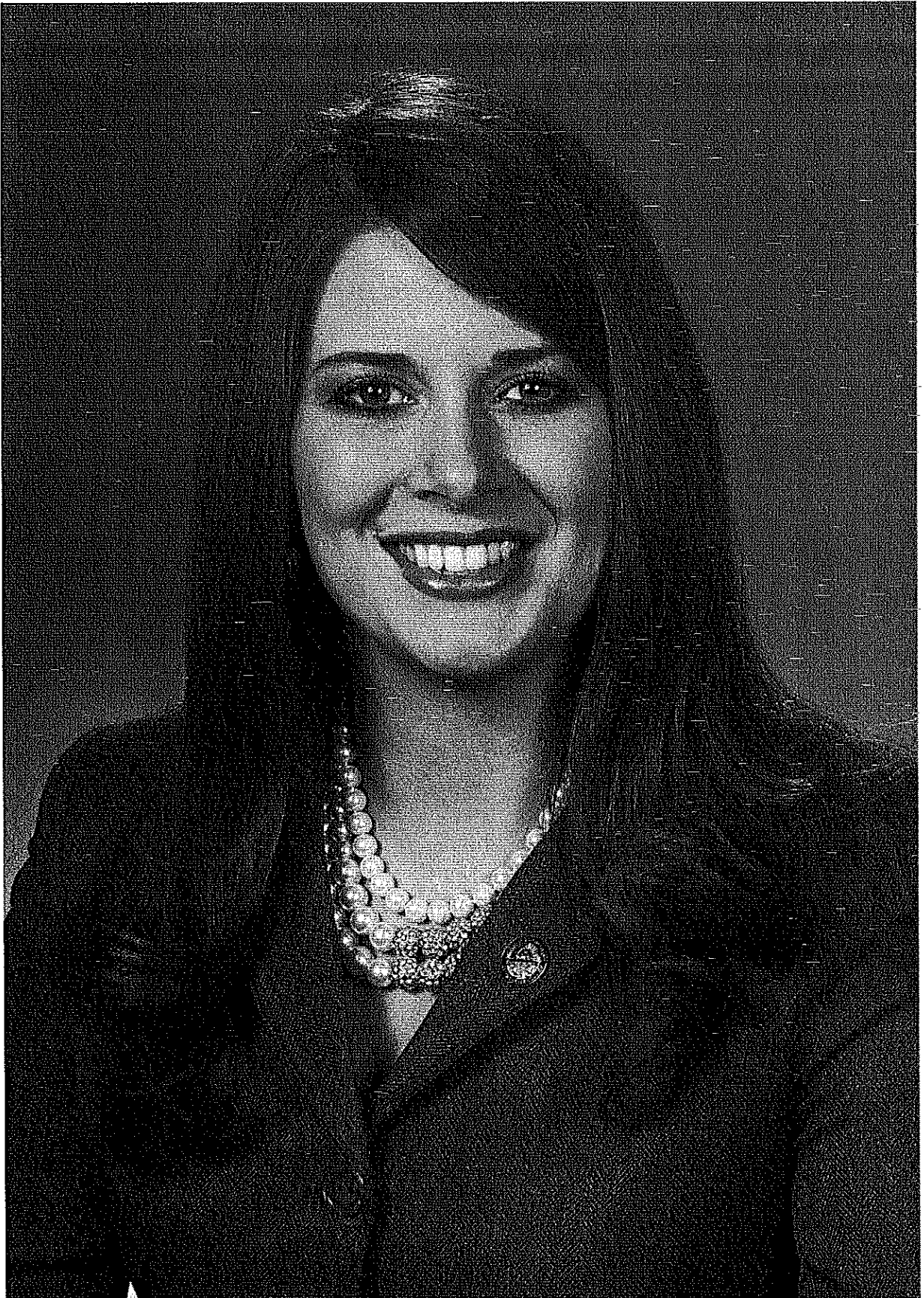
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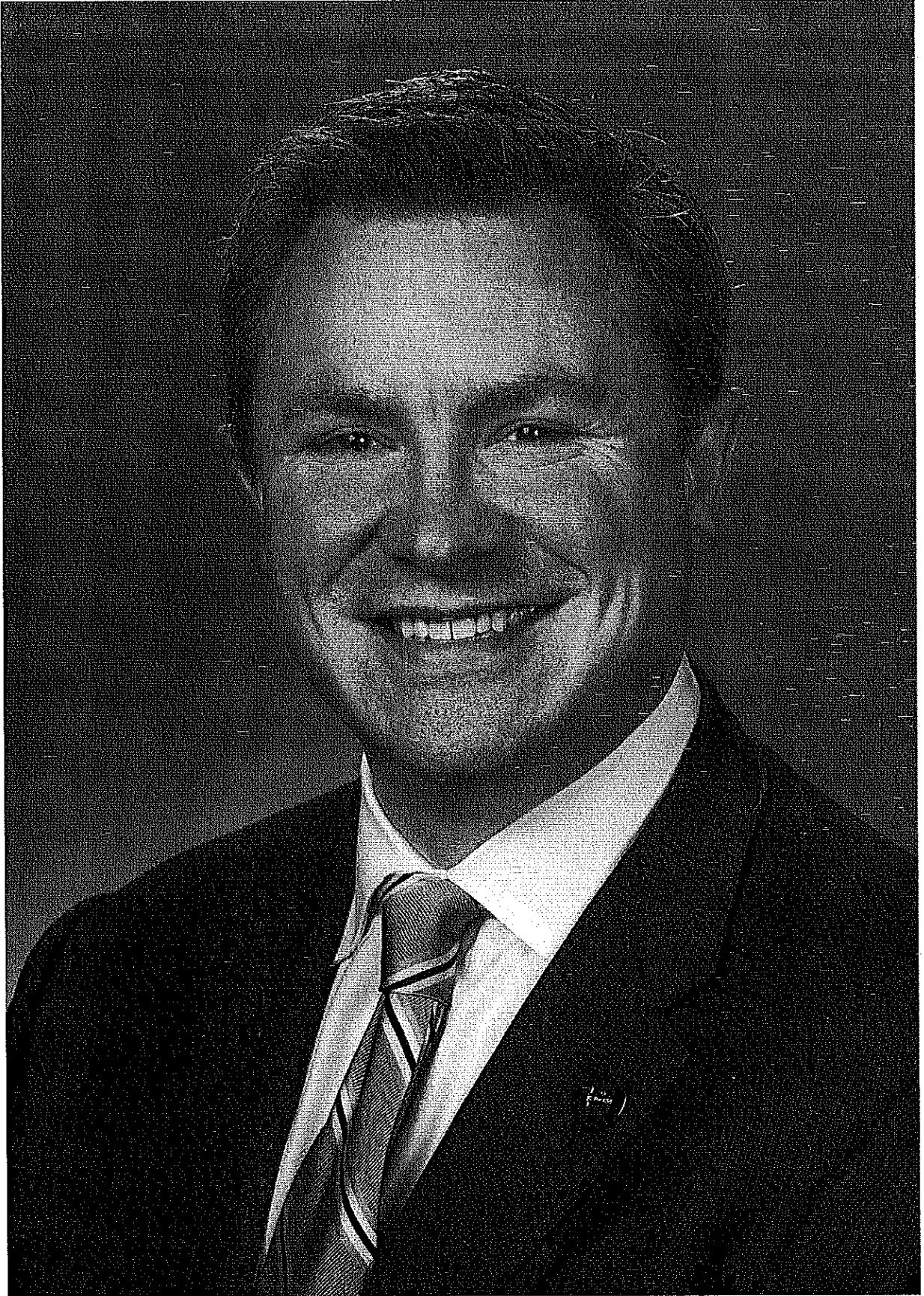
public records. Small startup companies in Ohio could also use the data to create jobs in information technology.

A number of other states have implemented open data policies similar to DataOhio, including Texas, Illinois, Rhode Island, Utah, New York, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Maryland.

Reps. Duffey and Hagan have indicated that DataOhio would be complimentary to the Ohio Checkbook effort undertaken by Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel, but that the legislation is technically a separate effort, as DataOhio works to establish data standards for a variety of non-financial data as well as financial data. As a result, some of the data produced might eventually be published by Ohio Checkbook, but it could just as easily be disseminated through other portals as well.

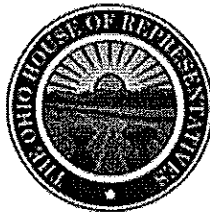
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From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:19 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra; Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora; Westlake, Libby; Smith, Kristen
CC: VanBuskirk, Victoria; James, Ben
Subject: RE: ALERT: Hagan Duffey HB 130 (Sending @ 5:20)

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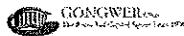
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2016 6:16 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Attachments: Jun1.htm; Jun1Senate.htm; 160601dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #105 -- Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

State Treasurer Josh Mandel on Wednesday announced the launch of a program enabling people living with certain disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs.

Earnings from the State Treasury Achieving a Better Life Experience Accounts aren't subject to federal income tax and the money in the accounts would be exempt from state and federal means testing for programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

"As treasurer of Ohio I am proud to serve as administrator of STABLE Accounts," Treasurer Mandel said in a statement. "By assisting individuals and families with saving and investing, we are supporting persons with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life."

Ohio is the first state to provide the accounts, which were made possible by federal legislation in 2014, according to the treasurer's office. Legislation (HB 155) signed by Gov. John Kasich last July directed the treasurer to implement the program, originally named ABLE.

The accounts are designed to help people with disabilities gain more economic opportunities without jeopardizing their eligibility for care under government programs.

"Today is a historical achievement as now ABLE accounts are a reality for all individuals with disabilities in America thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated advocates from across the US," said National Down Syndrome Society President Sara Hart Weir. "We couldn't be more proud to participate in the launch of the STABLE Accounts in Ohio."

Ohio's program is open to anyone across the country who meets eligibility requirements, though the fees are higher for people who live out-of-state. Ohio residents will pay \$2.50 per month to maintain the accounts, while residents of other states will pay \$5 per month. Ohio residents will pay an asset-based fee of between 0.19-0.34%, depending on investment options, while out-of-state residents will pay a fee between 0.45- 0.60%.

Participants can use the money from the account for qualified expenses, including education, health care, housing and transportation. Participants will be able to choose between five different investment strategies that range in risk levels, including a banking approach that offers no risk and is backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"Ohio, by providing these tax-advantaged savings accounts to children and adults with disabilities, has begun to pave the way for a transformative opportunity for one of our country's most disenfranchised populations," said Christopher Rodriguez, senior public policy adviser of the National Disability Institute. "The benefits of these STABLE Accounts will surely promote people with disabilities, and their families, to save for their futures and become a more significant part of the economic mainstream."

The accounts have a yearly contribution limit of \$14,000. Accounts can be set up for free on the program's website, and an initial contribution of \$50 is required.

The legislation that enabled the program passed the House and Senate unanimously last year. The bill's sponsors, Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Margaret Condit (R-Liberty Twp.) said it would help lift people with disabilities out of poverty by allowing them to make and save more money without losing vital programs for their care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 20, 2015)

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Federal officials were in Columbus Wednesday to announce a \$37 million grant designed to improve public transit in a corridor of Columbus.

The grant, presented by Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), is designed to help fund a bus rapid transit system along the Cleveland Avenue corridor in Northeast Columbus.

Sen. Brown praised the system as a way of improving access to jobs and increasing opportunities for people who use the route. The system will cut down on the time people spend waiting for buses and riding buses, he said.

"One of the beauties of doing this right in such a progressive city like Columbus is it will make people's lives better and make their time more theirs," he said.

The bus rapid transit program, known as CMAX, will stretch from downtown to Westerville, with 32 bus stops, two new park-and-ride lots and 15 new compressed natural gas buses. It is expected to launch in January 2018.

COTA President and CEO W. Curtis Stitt praised Sen. Brown for his work to maintain the level of funding for public transit programs in the latest long-term transportation authorization bill.

"Without his steadfast support, funding for this would have been impossible," Mr. Stitt said.

After the event and ceremonial grant signing, Sen. Brown said he believed the new bus line would help Columbus win the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge.

The Ohio Legislature last week adopted a resolution (SCR 21) urging the DOT to choose Columbus. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Winning the Smart City Challenge, he said would be bigger than just winning \$40 million for transportation programs, he said. Columbus groups have offered an additional \$90 million in investment if Columbus, one of seven national finalists, lands the grant this summer.

"It makes us bigger as a city and as a state nationally," Sen. Brown said. "There will be all kinds of creative people in Central Ohio parlaying that into all kinds of things."

Sen. Brown also said he didn't think the CMAX program precludes Columbus from receiving funding for possible light rail programs later on.

"We're not saying no to light rail," he said. "I think that nothing's off the table."

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Planned Parenthood scored two legal victories in recent days, including Wednesday's extension of a temporary restraining order preventing the state from defunding the organization.

The TRO extension was issued by federal Judge Michael Barrett and will remain in effect until Aug. 5. Another hearing on the matter is scheduled for Aug. 2.

Planned Parenthood cheered the ruling in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"Without the action by the court today, some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens would be left without health care options. Especially for families in underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only place to turn," said Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

"Our government should be supporting programs that serve to improve the health and safety of our communities, not using Ohioans as political pawns. We want the people of Ohio to know one thing: Our doors are staying open, no matter what."

Right to Life Ohio blasted the ruling as judicial activism.

"The decision to extend the restraining order casts a light on the might and influence of Big Abortion, even in a pro-life state. Despite the will of Ohio voters, an unelected judge just halted their democratically enacted, constitutional law by another two months," spokeswoman Katherine Franklin said in a statement. "The conscience rights of all Ohioans, including pro-life Ohioans, matter. By preventing the enactment of this legislation, the judge is sending the opposite signal to half of Ohio's voters."

The defunding of the group - which would cost Planned Parenthood \$1.1 million annually in state money - was approved by lawmakers through a bill (HB 294) signed into law by Gov. John Kasich earlier this year. The cutoff was set to go into effect on May 23.

However, Judge Barrett last week initially issued a temporary restraining order through June 6, ruling the organization was likely to succeed in its lawsuit on both First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment grounds. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 23, 2016)

In a separate case, the organization has reached a settlement with the Department of Health that will require the state to pay \$45,447 in attorney fees. Federal Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr. will maintain jurisdiction over the case to ensure the settlement agreement is enforced.

The settlement stems from an investigation by Attorney General Mike DeWine that allegedly found that Planned Parenthood affiliates violated Ohio Administrative Code by handing over fetal remains to companies that dispose of them in landfills - a claim the group denied. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 11, 2015)

The court, however, issued a 28-day temporary restraining order against any legal action stemming from the AG's investigation into the group's abortion policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2015)

Soon after, Mr. DeWine announced that he would not enforce the "humane disposal" section of the Administrative Code while the Department of Health and General Assembly sought to further clarify the law. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 18, 2015)

Mr. DeWine's investigation led to a flurry of legislative activity, including a measure (HB 417) that would require the woman seeking an abortion to choose either burial or cremation. Another bill (HB 419) would require the director of the Department of Health to adopt rules requiring abortion facilities to dispose of fetal remains by burial or cremation. Similar legislation (SB 254) was introduced in and recently cleared the Senate.

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

The Senate and its committees are set to return to Columbus in late September, according to a schedule released by the chamber on Wednesday.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has set session and committee dates on September 27, 28 and 29, followed by meetings on October 4, 5 and 6.

The chamber could then return to action after the November election, with if-needed dates set for November 9 and 10.

Dates are also scheduled for November 15, 16, 22 (if needed), 29 and 30.

The chamber is set for session and committee dates on December 1, 6, 7 and 8, with if-needed sessions on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 28th.

The House last week released its schedule for the remainder of the year, with the calendar showing as many as eight session dates. None of the dates on the House schedule are before the election. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 27, 2016)

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

State agencies have retooled their approach to public outreach efforts when it comes to harmful algal blooms in the state's recreational waterways.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Health and Natural Resources, in a joint announcement, recently outlined a new strategy to increase awareness among citizens before they enter the water.

As part of the plan, the state will be quicker in issuing public health advisories by basing those alerts solely on the levels of harmful algal bloom toxins, such as microcystin, ODH Medical Director Mary DiOrio said.

Advisories were previously declared only following documented health issues thought to be caused by algal toxins.

"As we continue to better understand harmful algal blooms and the toxins they may produce, we have eliminated the previous requirement for a probable case of an algal bloom-related human illness or a pet death before issuing an elevated recreational public health advisory," Dr. DiOrio said.

In addition to faster public warnings, the state will rely on a website to provide a roundup of ongoing advisories and other pertinent data.

"We are encouraging people to 'know before you go' by checking our BeachGuard website," Dr. DiOrio said. "BeachGuard lists any recreational public health advisories and water quality data for some toxins and E. coli bacteria for Ohio state park lake beaches and boat ramps as well as participating non-state public and private beaches."

Another key component of the new awareness effort is a revamped signage system. A white sign will be posted at all state park beaches and boat ramps, describing the appearance of algal blooms and instructing visitors to be on the lookout.

If an algal bloom is confirmed or when toxin levels are equal to or exceed the designated threshold - six parts per billion for microcystin - orange "warning" signs will be added to the white signs. These signs will state swimming and wading are not recommended for children, pregnant or nursing women, those with certain medical conditions, and pets.

A red "danger" sign will be added if and when algal toxin levels are equal to or exceed a designated threshold - 20 parts per billion for microcystin. That sign will confirm unsafe toxin levels have been detected and instruct visitors to avoid contact with the water.

The agencies are encouraging non-state public and private waters to also adopt the new strategy.

The announcement follows OEPA's recent unveiling of draft phosphorus reduction targets in Lake Erie, which could help reduce such blooms. The plan is part of a multi-state, binational agreement to lower phosphorus levels by 40% by 2025. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But Ohio Environmental Council Clean Water Director Adam Rissien has since said the plan doesn't go far enough in curbing runoff pollution from agriculture companies which can feed algae growth.

"Certainly the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to reduce toxic algae, but in order to ensure its success, further action is necessary," Mr. Rissien said. "Real progress requires policies for widespread adoption of conservation practices and proper applications of fertilizer and manure."

OEPA Director Craig Butler and the Army Corps of Engineers, meanwhile, have sparred in recent months over the potential existence of a "toxic blob" in Lake Erie. Although the OEPA says water sampling "clearly shows" the blob's existence, the Corps insists "no credible scientific evidence supports" that idea. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 6, 2016)

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

The Ohio Democratic Party's chairman labeled Donald Trump a "fraud" who is "using veterans as a prop" a day after the billionaire sought to satiate questions of whether he had fulfilled promised donations to veterans groups.

Chairman David Pepper and retired Army Capt. Paul Worley, chair of the ODP veterans' caucus, added their voices to those criticizing the GOP presumptive nominee following Mr. Trump's press conference Tuesday in Trump Tower.

During that press conference, Mr. Trump outlined how he had donated the \$5.6 million raised by a January fundraiser he organized to compete with a Fox News presidential debate.

After the fundraiser, Mr. Trump repeatedly told media and supporters he had raised more than \$6 million from the event. But media reports - including a May 24 report from the *Washington Post* - continued to show that about half that money had not been donated.

Mr. Trump responded this week, outlining how much money had been sent to which groups. Several of those checks - including a \$1 million donation from Mr. Trump that he claimed to have made previously - were written last week, the same day the billionaire was interviewed by the *Post* on the fundraising discrepancy, according to the Associated Press.

"I think over the course of (yesterday) and today we've learned the truth: that Donald Trump is a fraud whose only concern is what's in it for him," Mr. Pepper said in a media call hosted by the Democratic National Committee.

"In this case it's clear that veterans were nothing more than a prop for Donald Trump when he needed them...and he only actually paid up what he said he'd already paid when called on it later," Mr. Pepper continued. "All this shows Donald Trump is not fit to be president."

Mr. Trump attributed the delay in issuing the checks to the process of vetting the various charities. He did not explain the discrepancy between the \$5.6 million figure and his previous claims to have raised more than \$6 million. He said veterans were greatly pleased by his contribution and support.

"I have raised a tremendous amount of money for the vets," Mr. Trump said. "I have been thanked by so many veterans groups throughout the United States."

He made additional headlines Tuesday for the combative nature of his press conference, during which he blasted the media - calling one reporter "a sleaze" - and said he would continue that contentious relationship with the media if elected president.

Mr. Worley, an Adams County commissioner who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, questioned Mr. Trump's leadership following the candidate's early criticism of Sen. John McCain for being captured as a prisoner of war and for his conflicting statements on the permissibility of torture.

"Trump is a classic example of someone who will promise things - say he's doing things for veterans - but will turn around and not follow through on his promises," Mr. Worley said. "He is not a leader that cares about people. He only cares about himself."

During Mr. Trump's press conference, 22-year retired Marine and New Hampshire State Rep. Al Baldasaro shot back against claims Mr. Trump doesn't support veterans.

"I would never in a million years put my name on a candidate who did not from his heart look me in the eye and tell me he is concerned about veterans," Mr. Baldasaro said, urging the media to "get your heads out of your butts and focus on the real issues."

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

On Wednesday, the ACLU of Ohio voiced concerns that potential flight restrictions and new credentialing procedures will hinder media access to the Republican National Convention.

In a letter to media outlets, ACLU Legal Director Freda Levenson said, "Increased control by the government over media access at the RNC presents serious First Amendment concerns."

Journalists planning to cover the July event in Cleveland must currently be screened and credentialed by the Secret Service. And expanded use of flight restrictions could be implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration to create no-fly zones around the event.

"The new credentialing process may reduce the ability of reporters to get access to events as they unfold," Ms. Levenson wrote. "Restrictions put in place by the FAA could completely block the ability of news agencies to obtain aerial footage of the convention, protests, and the actions of law enforcement."

A day prior, Cleveland leaders announced new security plans for the event, which is expected to draw 50,000 people. Officials didn't provide specifics - saying that doing so could compromise security - but outlined the training and organizational efforts being undertaken in advance of the event.

The same day, the RNC Host Committee announced a joint beautification effort to establish "a brighter, more welcoming experience along the main pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares in downtown Cleveland."

Pensions: U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), while in Columbus with federal transportation officials to present a \$37 million grant to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (*see separate story*), criticized Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) for blocking a bill Sen. Brown sponsored to shore up pension plans for miners.

Sen. Brown has been pushing for the Senate to consider the Miners Protection Act he sponsored alongside Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) before breaking for the summer. The bill is an effort to address the shortfall in the United Mine Workers of America's 1974 pension plan, which was 94% funded before 2008 and is now severely underfunded due to the financial crisis and fewer active workers, according to Sen. Brown's office.

"One senator, the Republican leader in the Senate, has blocked the Senate from doing its job to protect these miners," Sen. Brown said.

Sen. Brown stressed the "urgent need" to address the pension shortfall in a letter to Sen. McConnell last week.

The senator also said he hoped lawmakers could work together to fix similar pension concerns faced by Teamsters.

Cincinnati Zoo: Rep. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) urged citizens to wait for investigations to conclude before jumping to conclusions about the recent killing of a gorilla after a 3-year-old boy entered the animal's exhibit.

A 17-year-old silverback, named Harambe, was shot and killed May 28 after the boy crawled into the exhibit and fell 15 feet into a moat separating the animals from visitors. Protestors said the gorilla appeared to be protecting the boy, although video, which does not show the entire ordeal, shows the 450-pound animals dragging the boy by the leg through the moat several times.

Protestors argue workers should have tranquilized the animal. But zoo officials contend doing so could have enraged the gorilla and that tranquilizers would take up to 10 minutes to go into effect.

In the wake of the incident, Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* he's looking into whether a law should be drafted to levy fines or criminal charges on one who causes the death, by their negligence, of an endangered animal.

In a statement Wednesday, Rep. Driehaus said she'd spoken "at length" with Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard and urged caution from those judging actions of zoo officials and the family involved.

"I trust the zoo officials and am confident they exercised their best professional judgment given the harrowing circumstances," Rep. Driehaus said. "Though losing Harambe is truly tragic, our community can take comfort in the fact that the zoo prevented the serious injury or death of a three-year-old child. I am thankful the zoo protected this young boy's life."

Later in the day, the *Enquirer* reported that an investigation had concluded and no charges would be filed.

U.S. Senate Race: U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-Terrace Park) reelection campaign launched his first television ads this week.

The three ads are intended to showcase Sen. Portman's efforts to combat the prescription drug and heroin epidemic. They're part of a \$15 million ad buy stretching until November that was announced last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 12, 2016)

"Working together with Democrats and Republicans, I passed legislation to help break the grip of addiction," Sen. Portman said in one of the ads. "By investing in prevention, treatment, and recovery, empowering law enforcement, and stopping the over prescribing of painkillers, we can turn the tide."

NARAL Pro-Choice America, meanwhile, announced its own ad campaign targeting Sen. Portman. The campaign is aimed at pressuring Sen. Portman and other Republicans to fulfill the ongoing Supreme Court vacancy.

"NARAL is stepping up to ensure Sen. Portman does the job the people of Ohio elected him to do," NARAL Senior Vice President Sasha Bruce said.

Sen. Portman, who like many of his colleagues believes the next president should fill the post, previously said his stance is "the right thing for the country." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 9, 2016)

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, who's running in an effort to unseat Sen. Portman, landed the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers, the group announced Wednesday.

"The future of our state depends on whether we are committed to our children," Ohio Federation of Teachers President Melissa Cropper said. "Ohio students and parents need the kind of arduous support Governor Strickland provides in making education his highest priority."

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Gov. John Kasich on Wednesday named Emmalee Kalmbach as his press secretary.

Currently the communications director for Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the Bob Jones University graduate recently served as a member of the communications team for the governor's presidential campaign.

The native of Littleton, N.H. is also the former communications director for the Massachusetts Republican Party.

Ms. Kalmbach replaces Joe Andrews, who has been serving as the governor's interim press secretary since Rob Nichols departed last summer to work on the campaign. Mr. Andrews will return to his position as communications director for the Department of Public Safety.

In another development impacting the governor's staff, Jon Keeling, a former political blogger and deputy communications director for Mr. Kasich, has been named spokesman for the Department of Job and Family Services.

Buckeye Institute: The Columbus-based free market think tank on Wednesday announced two new staff members with the aim of focusing on budget and labor issues.

Orphe Divounguy was named economist in the Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the group's communications director.

Mr. Divounguy's research will focus on current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will entail "dynamic" scoring and analysis of

budgets in Ohio and other states, according to the group. Mr. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement.

"The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."

Mr. Divounguy holds degrees from England's University of Southampton, and after receiving his Ph.D., he served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant.

Mr. Reed previously served as the global communications leader for Corporate Responsibility at Indiana-based Cummins Inc. The Ohio University graduate previously held posts with the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C.

Governor's Appointments

Community Schools Dropout Recovery Study Committee: Alex Johnson of Solon for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.

Cleveland State University Board of Trustees: Todd C. Davidson of Cleveland for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and ending May 1, 2025.

Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas: Thomas D. Heekin Jr. of Cincinnati will assume office on June 6, 2016 and must run in the November 2016 general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing January 4, 2017. Mr. Heekin holds degrees from the University of Colorado and University of Cincinnati. He has been a criminal litigator for Heekin & Heekin since 2002.

State Employment Relations Board: J. Richard Lumpe of Columbus for a term beginning June 1, 2016 and ending October 6, 2021.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, June 2

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, June 6

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8

Consumers' Counsel Governing Board, Suite 1800, 10 W. Broad St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, June 16

Expositions Commission, Voinovich Center, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 11 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Thursday, June 30

20th Annual Rockin' Fiscal Eve, Miller's Ale House, 1201 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, 5 p.m.,

(All-invited celebration

of the end of MBRs in FY 2016 with MBRs (Massive Beer Rounds). Parking adjacent to building.)

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Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 337  **ROAD NAMING (Hughes, J.)** To designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Hilliard Patrol Officer Sean Johnson Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.44

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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, June 2

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Construction Industry Licensing Board, 6606 Tussing Road, OCILB Conference Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (HVAC Section)

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Department of Taxation public hearing on proposed current agricultural use values, 22nd Floor, 30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 10 a.m.

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Wednesday, June 1, 2016

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Senate Announces Sessions for Rest of 2016; Composite Schedule Included with Today's Report](#)
- [Ohio First State to Launch STABLE Accounts under Federal Law](#)
- [Federal Judge Extends Block on Planned Parenthood Defunding Bill](#)
- [Local Leaders, OhioMHAS Join for Recovery Summit](#)
- [OTA Convention Features Next Gen 9-1-1 Discussion](#)
- [Last Week of Session Sees Legislature Finish Work on 35 Bills](#)
- [Study Panel to Consider Dropout Recovery School Issues](#)
- [State Government Roundup: Governor; AG](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Mary Taylor](#)
- [People in the News: Buckeye Institute](#)
- [Ohio Digest: COTA Funds](#)
- [Campus Chronicle: Special Education Grant](#)

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Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2016 6:15 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Report, Thursday, July 7, 2016
Attachments: Jul7.htm; 160707dayplan.htm; Jul8Schedule.htm



Ohio Report for Thursday, July 7, 2016

Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications

Medicaid Underspending Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says

November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017

High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week

June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos

Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative

In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record

Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...

Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Calendars

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

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Volume #85, Report #130 -- Thursday, July 7, 2016

Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications

In the wake of updated charter school laws, the list of buildings closing this summer is longer than ever and the Department of Education has declined to sponsor any new schools that submitted applications.

At the end of the fiscal year, 20 charter schools did not sign new sponsor contracts and will close their doors, according to ODE. Of those, 11 were given notice in January that their sponsors were dropping them, typically because of poor academic performance, while the other half closed voluntarily. (Closure List)

More than 100 other schools have shut down in the last five years, but this year's group is the largest since June 30, 2014 when 19 schools did not sign new contracts.

A handful of the schools that were given notice that their contracts wouldn't be renewed applied to ODE's Office of School Sponsorship, which can sponsor start-up schools and take over existing schools looking for new sponsors.

None of the 10 schools that sought new sponsorship were approved, however - a first for the department, according to application records from previous years. (Sponsorship Applicants)

Charter schools sponsors and supporters point to tighter closure and sponsorship laws (HB 2) as a cause for this year's stats.

Ron Adler, president of the Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, said it's likely that schools will continue to close in higher numbers each year because of sponsors' concerns about how their schools' state report card scores will impact their evaluations.

"I think that there are probably some schools being closed that probably need to be closed. However, I think sponsors today, with some of the criteria that has come through the Ohio Department of Education that has made it almost impossible and created penalties, they don't want to sponsor some schools," he said.

"We've got some sponsors that are very good at turning around schools and (ODE) has created such a fear factor that sponsors are hesitant for their own existence to help and improve the schools."

The new sponsor evaluations, which are detailed in the latest charter school legislation and overseen by ODE, factor in quality, compliance and academic performance.

Sponsors that don't score well in those areas could face losing their ability to continue sponsoring schools.

Sponsors have said they're prepared for poor showings in the performance category because of lower state test scores across the board. Unlike traditional schools, charters were not granted safe harbor from impacts related to report card results reflecting new standardized exams.

In addition to calling out lawmakers for failing to provide them with safe harbor, sponsors have also recently complained that it will be impossible to meet deadlines for producing compliance documentation that was requested by ODE as a result of the new laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2016)

"I think that House Bill 2 is being revered by some," Mr. Adler said in an interview. "I see it as all compliance, compliance, compliance. It is 106 pages of rules, regulations and mandates that just make it more difficult to operate and improve achievement."

Chad Aldis, vice president of Ohio policy and advocacy for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, agreed that it is likely sponsors gave consideration to the new evaluations when making closure decisions this year.

But, he said he's hopeful that any needed tweaks can be made to both the laws and as the new procedures play out over the next few years.

"There are a lot of good charter schools and we wouldn't want to see them closed as a result of this and you also wouldn't want to see sponsors so afraid of the provisions that they won't open potentially new, strong, innovative schools that could really make a difference for kids," Mr. Aldis said.

"I think what we're in right now is a little bit of a correction phase and hopefully sponsors will have confidence in their decisions and continue to open schools when the school is likely to be successful."

Five sponsors in the state have plans to open 10 start-up schools for the 2016-17 school year, according to ODE. (Potential New Schools List)

ODE's Office of School Sponsorship will be evaluated with all other sponsors, but is not impacted by the new rating system that could prohibit a sponsor from taking on new schools or put a sponsor out of business.

However, the office took a more discerning approach this year when reviewing applications for taking over existing schools or aiding start-up operations.

"A top priority for the Ohio Department of Education is a strong system of accountability for all schools in our state, including charter schools and their sponsors," agency spokeswoman Brittany Halpin said. "Provisions in the recent charter school reform

legislation strengthen the department's ability to support high quality options for the state's students."

In the past, the department was required to sponsor any school that followed the application process correctly, but new laws allow it to deny schools that aren't meeting certain standards.

Mr. Aldis called the update that allowed it to decline all of this year's applications a "smart change."

"If (ODE) is going to sponsor schools, it should absolutely be able to determine whether the schools are performing well before it just takes one on," he said in an interview.

It's possible schools will continue to close at the same pace in coming years because House Bill 2 also put in place some guardrails to limit so-called "sponsor-hopping," Mr. Aldis said.

Updated laws prohibit charter schools from seeking new sponsorship if they don't meet fiscal management or performance requirements.

"The ability for lower performing schools to change sponsors is not what it used to be, so when you see the overall number of closures, some of those in the past might have gone on to a different sponsor and that can't happen now," he said.

Medicaid Underspending Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says

The Kasich administration credits an improving economy and a more accurate eligibility determination system with driving nearly \$1.3 billion in Medicaid underspending last fiscal year.

The Medicaid program finished the year spending about \$926 million less than expected from the General Revenue Fund, and nearly \$1.3 billion less than expected from all funds, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

The underspending continues a longtime trend in the program covering multiple administrations. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 6, 2016)

According to OHT, the program enrolled about 3 million Ohioans on an average monthly basis during fiscal year 2016, about 32,000 below projections. While the overall enrollment was below projections, the number of people enrolled in the expansion group, which is completely funded by federal dollars, increased by 26,000.

Meanwhile, the number of people enrolled in the traditional program, which is partially funded by the state, was 58,000 below the estimate, according to OHT.

The administration said part of this shift is due to an improving economy - as people make more money, they move out of traditional Medicaid and into the expansion group, which includes people making up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

OHT also credited a new and more accurate system to determine eligibility, which assigns new enrollees to the proper category and moves them off the program as their finances improve.

Total Medicaid spending from all funding sources was \$25.3 billion, of which nearly \$17 billion came through the General Revenue Fund.

The federal share of Medicaid spending last fiscal year was \$715 million, or 3.9%, below the original budget estimate, while the state's share was \$550 million, or 6.7%, below the original estimate, according to OHT.

In fiscal year 2015, the Department of Medicaid reported total Medicaid spending of \$1.9 billion below the original budget estimate.

That year, enrollment for the expansion group was more than 152,000 above the original estimate, while enrollment in the traditional program was 192,000 below estimate.

November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017

No citizen-initiated issues will appear on November's ballot, Secretary of State Jon Husted announced Thursday, a day after the deadline to file petitions for proposed constitutional amendments and initiated statutes.

A few high-profile efforts to reach the ballot were made this year, including two related to medical marijuana and one related to prescription drug prices, but none of those issues found a place on the ballot in November.

Backers of an initiated statute designed to lower the cost of prescription drugs will aim for 2017, said Michael Weinstein, president of the California-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which supported the measure.

Supporters of the proposal, called the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act, initially gathered enough signatures to bring it before the legislature, where no action was taken, but a review of those petitions by the secretary of state's office delayed the collection of signatures, prompting lawsuits by the initiated statute's supporters in state and federal courts. Both cases were dismissed after Mr. Husted transmitted the proposal to the General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 19, 2016)

In an email, Mr. Weinstein said the proposal will have to wait for next year after the delays.

"We will go for 2017," he said. "We are collecting and will submit sufficient signatures within the 90 days allowed."

Another lawsuit, filed by industry groups challenging the petition signatures gathered for the initiated statute, is ongoing. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

A proposal dealing with lawmaker lobbying, called Ethics First - You Decide Ohio, also made a push for the ballot. The Ballot Board divided the issue into three different issues, a decision the amendment's backers challenged in the Ohio Supreme Court. The Court dismissed that challenge in May. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Ronald Alban, one of the proposal's backers, said in an email that they have no intention of moving forward with the proposal.

Two citizen-initiated proposals to legalize medical marijuana, one backed by the Washington-based Marijuana Policy Project and the other by a group called Grassroots Ohio, will also not appear on the ballot after an early push in the wake of last year's failed Issue 3 vote.

The MPP-backed Ohioans for Medical Marijuana group announced it would not pursue the ballot after lawmakers passed a bill (HB 523) in May creating a medical marijuana system. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2016)

Backers of Grassroots Ohio have said they are pushing forward with their proposal, which would create a constitutional right to possess marijuana for a medical purpose, with an eye on the 2017 ballot.

High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear appeals in two death penalty cases next week.

In one case, an Akron man convicted of the 2011 murders of his children's mother and her boyfriend plans to raise 14 legal claims in appealing both his sentence and conviction.

David Spaulding, who was sentenced to death for the 2011 murder of Erica Singleton and Ernest Thomas, will argue that he received ineffective legal counsel because both of his attorneys were not present for all proceedings in the case, that a witness' statement should have been suppressed and that he was denied legal counsel during interrogation.

Ms. Singleton obtained a civil protection order against Mr. Spaulding on Dec. 1, 2011, following a string of domestic violence incidents. However, two weeks later, Mr. Spaulding showed up at the place Ms. Singleton was staying with Mr. Thomas. He first shot another tenant, Patrick Griffin, who was paralyzed by the shooting, before killing Ms. Singleton and Mr. Thomas in their driveway.

In January 2013, a jury convicted Mr. Spaulding of aggravated murder, attempted murder and violation of a protection order.

In the second case, a Medina County man will argue that seven claims of legal and procedural errors should afford him a new trial.

Steven Cepec will claim that, among other issues, he was prejudiced by statements in court about a prior burglary conviction, that the trial court should have held a hearing on the competency of a witness and that his constitutional rights were violated because police continued to question him after he asked for a lawyer.

Mr. Cepec was convicted of murder, aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary following the 2010 death of Frank Munz, who was found bludgeoned with a hammer and strangled with a lamp cord.

Police arrived on the scene while Mr. Cepec was still in the home after receiving a call from Mr. Munz's nephew, Paul Munz, whose testimony at trial was called into question in the appeal. Upon arrival by the police, Mr. Cepec fled on foot. He was later found nearby hiding under a bush, the court reported.

The high court will hear four other cases next week:

- In *re Application of Buckeye Wind*, the high court will hear arguments from Champaign County residents that a hearing should be held on amended construction plans for the state's first wind-powered generation facility. The Power Siting Board approved a construction application in 2010 and the developer proposed revision to the plans in 2013.
- In *Disciplinary Counsel v. Joltin*, disciplinary counsel will object to the professional conduct board's proposed sanctions on a Canfield attorney found to have mishandled client funds, mismanaged his client trust account and not fully cooperated with the investigation. The professional conduct board proposed a sanction of two years, with 18 months stayed under certain conditions. However, disciplinary counsel will argue for an indefinite suspension.
- In *Defiance County v. Testa*, the court will consider whether the tax commissioner lawfully denied a Defiance County commissioner's request to transfer \$2.5 million from the county landfill fund to pay for emergency repairs to the county courthouse and to make renovations to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- In *Foley v. University of Dayton*, the court will decide what the statute of limitations is for filing a negligent misidentification claim and whether absolute privilege or qualified privilege shield the defendants' statements to law enforcement.

June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos

Overall revenue at Ohio's four casinos was down in June, with three of them seeing decreases from May, according to the Casino Control Commission.

The four casinos took in \$62.9 million in revenue in June, down from \$66.5 million in May and the lowest total of the year so far, according to revenue reports. Last June, the casinos brought in \$63.5 million, the lowest monthly total of the year.

Video lottery terminals at the state's racinos brought in a total of \$70.7 million in June, down from \$78.2 million in May. They ended the fiscal year with nearly \$869 million in revenue, up from \$773 million in fiscal year 2015. (VLT reports)

JACK Cleveland was the only Ohio casino to see an uptick in revenue in June, bringing in \$16.3 million compared to just over \$16 million in May, according to revenue reports. The casino was closed for 40 hours in May while it rebranded from Horseshoe Cleveland to JACK Cleveland.

Of JACK Cleveland's revenue, \$8.7 million came from table games, while \$7.6 came from slot machines, according to the report. The casino's monthly revenue was up nearly \$2 million from \$14.4 million in June 2015.

JACK Cincinnati saw the biggest drop in revenue in June, bringing in \$14.1 million compared to \$16.2 million the month before. JACK Cincinnati was closed for 40 hours in June to rebrand from Horseshoe Cincinnati. Of its revenue in June, \$9.4 million came from slot machines and \$4.6 million came from table games. Last June, the casino brought in \$16.1 million.

Hollywood Columbus saw revenue drop by more than \$860,000, falling from nearly \$17.8 million in May to more than \$16.9 million in June. Slot machines accounted for \$11.8 million in revenue, while table games accounted for \$5.1 million. Last June, the casino's revenue was \$16.4 million.

Hollywood Toledo saw revenue drop nearly \$900,000 to \$15.6 million in June, with more than \$13 million coming from slot machines and \$2.6 million coming from table games. Last June, the casino took in \$16.6 million.

Racinos: VLT revenue at all seven of the states racinos declined from May to June, with Scioto Downs seeing the largest decrease, dropping nearly \$1.7 million from just under \$13.5 million in May to just under \$11.8 million in June.

At Hard Rock Racino Northfield Park, revenue fell more than \$1.5 million to \$17.9 million in June, while at Miami Valley Gaming it fell by nearly \$1.5 million to \$10.8 million.

Revenue at JACK Thistledown Racino fell by more than \$941,000 to \$9.1 million. At Hollywood Mahoning Valley Race Course, it fell by nearly \$806,000 to \$7.6 million. Revenue at Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway fell more than \$693,000 to just under \$7 million in June, and revenue at Belterra Park fell more than \$457,000 to \$6.4 million.